

REGULATION 26: HONORARY DEGREES

1. In accordance with Article 10 of the Charter and in accordance with the Statutes, the University shall confer Honorary Degrees and other distinctions on approved persons; provided that all Honorary Degrees and other distinctions so conferred shall be held subject to this Regulation.
2. The University may, without examination, confer an Honorary Degree on any person whom it may deem worthy of such a distinction; provided that the holder of such an Honorary Degree shall not be entitled to practise any profession, by virtue of the fact that he or she has been admitted thereto.
3. No person shall be admitted by the University to an Honorary Degree unless his or her name has been approved for that purpose by Senate.
4. Senate may make Regulations for governing the procedure to be followed in dealing with a proposal to confer an Honorary Degree.
5. The degree of Doctor may be conferred as an Honorary Degree of the University after the resolution of Senate including Doctor of the University (DUniv).
6. The Honorary Degrees Committee shall consist of:
 - (a) the Vice-Chancellor (Chair);
 - (b) the Deputy Vice-Chancellor;
 - (c) Chair of Council;
 - (d) two independent members of Council;
 - (e) four members of the permanent academic staff appointed by Senate, of whom two should be Professors and two members of the non-professorial academic staff, (each should serve for three years);
 - (f) the President of the Students' Union.
7. The powers of the Committee are:
 - (a) to recommend to Senate:
 - (1) whether or not honorary degrees should be awarded in any one year;
 - (2) if they are to be awarded, the approximate number of them;
 - (3) to whom they should be awarded;
 - (4) awards jointly with other institutions of higher education;
 - (5) joint awards with the University of Brighton on the recommendation of the Brighton and Sussex Medical School Joint Board; with the University hosting the ceremony in any particular year, to seek nominations from BSMS and to process the nomination solely in line with their own Regulations, rather than jointly with the other University. The non-hosting University to be kept informed of the nomination and the outcome of the Committee's decision.

- (b) to award Fellowships;
 - (c) to award Gold Medals for Philanthropy or global impact in academic or social life.
8. The Committee should meet as occasion may require, and at least once a year (probably in November), to consider the above matters.
 9. The Chief Operating Officer should invite nominations from each member of Senate and the President of the Students' Union, a month before the date of the Committee's annual meeting. The Chair should at the same time invite the President of the Students' Union to discuss the matter with them, should the President wish to do so.

In addition, it should be understood that nominations may be sent to the Secretary of the Committee at any time of year by any member of the University. It should also be understood that the Committee will not necessarily attach more weight to nominations supported by large numbers of signatures than to those submitted by individuals.

10. The Chair should report to the Committee all the nominations they have received since its last meeting. The Committee should consider these, as well as other names, which need not necessarily have been submitted in advance of the meeting.
11. The Committee's recommendations to award honorary degrees should be reported to Senate for approval, prior to any nominee being contacted. Senators will be made aware of the need for strict confidentiality on the nominations even if approved by Senate. The Committee should also indicate to Senate the number of nominations considered by the Committee in the year in question.
12. In extraordinary cases where there are reasons which make it necessary to act quickly in offering an honorary degree to a distinguished person (e.g. one who may be only temporarily in this country), the Committee should have power to recommend the award of an honorary degree, and in such cases if there is insufficient time for Senate to meet, the Chair should have power to approve the recommendation on behalf of Senate.
13. If Senate approves the recommendation for the award of an honorary degree, the Chair should write to the persons concerned, in confidence, asking them if they would be willing to accept the degrees and present themselves for the awards on the dates fixed for the graduation ceremony.