

PRINCIPLES FOR THE AWARD OF HONORARY DEGREES

Each year the Honorary Degrees Committee receives many nominations for individuals to be awarded an honorary degree by the University. Virtually all the nominations are for individuals who are worthy of such an award. The difficult task facing the Honorary Degrees Committee is to make a recommendation to Senate of a much smaller number of candidates to be awarded an honorary degree from this University. The following principles have been drawn up to assist with this task.

1. The University awards Honorary Degrees in order to:
 - reflect the University's links – regionally, nationally and internationally
 - make a public statement of the University's values and commitments
 - promote opportunities for future developments and partnerships
2. Honorary Degrees should be given to individuals who have:
 - obtained the very highest standards in scholarship or
 - outstanding achievement worthy of national or international recognition
3. The award should acknowledge, or help establish, a clear, ongoing connection with the University.
4. There should be a balance over a period of time of the various subjects or professions recognised by the award of Honorary Degrees (an analysis of the Honorary Degrees awarded over a period of time should be presented to the Committee to help make a judgement).
5. The majority of degrees awarded in any one year should reflect the University's academic commitment and profile.
6. The degrees awarded should reflect the University's on-going commitment to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.
7. The University should not normally award honorary degrees to government ministers or opposition front bench spokespersons. Honorary degrees may be awarded to politicians but normally only after they have retired from front bench roles.
8. The University does not normally award Honorary Degrees to members of staff.
9. As eligibility to make nominations for the award of Honorary Degrees is restricted to members of Court, Council, Academic Board and of the alumni present at meetings of Convocation at which the request for nominations is tabled, the University should not be pressurised into approving nominations from outside bodies.

Colin Campbell
REGISTRAR

JVH/BLW
10 September 2007

JVH/LAJ
27 January 2010

JVH/BLW
13 October 2016

JVH/BLW
2 March 2017

JVH/HAS
12 January 2022

CC/HAS
24 March 2022