

Chair of Convocation – role description

Introduction – Convocation

The University's Statutes include provision for a convocation of the University consisting of the vice-chancellor, the deputy vice-chancellor, the pro-vice-chancellors, and all persons entitled to be registered as members of the convocation.

These are:

- (1) all alumni of the University
- (2) those alumni of the University of Durham who were during their courses registered students of the Newcastle Division of the University of Durham before 1 August 1963
- (3) those alumni of the University of Durham who were during their courses matriculated students at Sunderland Technical College
- (4) such other persons or classes of persons as the court may from time to time decide upon the recommendation of the senate.

The formal powers of Convocation are limited to the appointment of the Chancellor of the University on the nomination of Court and Senate sitting in joint session but under the Statutes it may discuss, and, if it thinks fit, make representations on, any matter whatsoever relating to the University. Alumni are an important part of the University's wider community. The meeting of Convocation is normally used as one occasion for the Vice-Chancellor to address alumni and seek comments or ideas on a wide range of University activity in addition to other alumni events.

The Chair

1. The Chair is elected by Convocation from among its own members.
2. The Chair shall hold office for a period of three years, and shall be eligible for re-election at the end of the period.
3. The Chair is ex officio a member of the University Court and the University, and of Honorary Degrees Committee.

Role and Duties of the Chair

The Chair of Convocation is encouraged to offer expertise and connections to support the strategic aims and ambitions of the University. The duties of the role are:

1. To Chair the annual meeting of Convocation.
2. To work with the Executive and Governance Office, to input into the compilation of the agenda for the annual meeting of Convocation.
3. To help induct the Deputy Chair of Convocation (if one is appointed).