

Procedure for revocation of a degree or other distinction conferred by the University

Effective from 1 September 2026

Purpose

1. The Procedure for the revocation of a degree or other distinction conferred by the University (**'the Procedure'**) sets out the process for enacting Statute 30, which provides that Senate may revoke any degree or other distinction conferred by the University and all privileges connected with them (**'a degree'**).
2. Senate may revoke a degree if it appears to Senate that the degree has been obtained as a result of academic misconduct on the part of the holder, or some other substantial reason as determined by Senate.

Review procedure

3. On receipt of a complaint against an individual alleging conduct which could lead to the revocation of a degree, the Academic Registrar (or nominee) shall investigate the complaint in order to establish whether or not there is a prima facie case to support the allegation.
4. The Academic Registrar (or nominee) will seek a report from an expert within the field from within the University (or if there is no appropriate expert or no one without a connection to the matter raised, an expert from outside the University) to advise them, and may seek such evidence as appears appropriate in investigating the complaint including interviewing or requesting statements from relevant parties.
5. If the complaint is a current member of staff or student, the Academic Registrar (or nominee) will notify them if no prima facie case has been established and the matter will not be taken further, or whether a prima facie case has been established and the matter will be referred for consideration by a Revocation Panel. Complainants who are members of the public will not be informed of the outcome of the review.
6. The Revocation Panel shall consist of three persons appointed by the Disciplinary Convenor to conduct a hearing and to determine the case. The Panel shall be drawn from members of the Student Disciplinary Committee or other appropriate members of staff. No member appointed will have any knowledge of either the complainant or the person complained against. The Panel will be supported by Registry and Education Services.
7. The Panel shall hold a hearing to determine whether or not to recommend that the degree be revoked. Prior to the Panel hearing the Panel Chair will review the initial report and may request further evidence, analysis or statements prior to the hearing or request the attendance of witnesses at the hearing.

8. The person complained against shall be given at least 14 calendar days notice of the hearing and shall have the right to submit evidence, to have notice of all other evidence to be considered, to attend, make representation at the hearing and to be accompanied by a friend or supporter. The complainant will not have the right to attend the hearing, nor receive any documentation, but may be invited as a witness by the Panel Chair if appropriate.
9. Where there are points of operating procedure not covered in this Procedure, the panel will refer to the general procedures for operating a Student Disciplinary Committee set out in the [Student Conduct Disciplinary Procedure](#), varying as appropriate.
10. In reaching their determination the Panel shall consider all the evidence. Where the Panel conclude that there is no case for revoking the degree, the secretary to the Panel shall inform the complainant if they are a current member of staff or student, (members of the public will not be informed) and the person complained against in writing.
11. Where the Panel decides that there is a case for revoking the degree it shall make a recommendation to Senate, providing a report and reasons for its decision. Such a recommendation must be supported by at least two members of the Committee.

Senate consideration

12. Senate may not approve a recommendation for revocation unless:
 - not fewer than two thirds of the members of Senate present and voting vote in favour of it; and
 - the numbers voting in favour of its revocation is not less than one half of the total number of Senate members.
13. Subject to paragraph 12, Senate shall decide whether or not to accept the Panel's recommendation. Senate's decision is final. The Academic Registrar shall write to the complainant if they are a current member of staff or student (members of the public will not be informed) and to the person complained against, to inform them of the decision.

Confidentiality

14. The person complained against has the right to be made aware of any report submitted against them and all available accompanying evidence. If any document includes personal or sensitive information, redactions may be made prior to sharing.
15. All students or staff involved in any investigation or hearing under this Procedure have a duty of confidentiality to person complained against. This means that all parties should refrain from discussing the case with anyone other than people who can be deemed to have a legitimate need to know. Where confidentiality is breached, this may be treated as an act of misconduct under the relevant staff or student procedure.

Freedom of speech

16. The University protects and promotes freedom of speech and freedom of academic thought within the law. This Code is not intended to limit the expression of controversial, offensive or alternative views or beliefs unless such expression breaches the University's [Code of Practice for Freedom of Speech](#). The Academic Registrar may decline to consider a complaint where its substantive basis is at odds with the Code of Practice for Freedom of Speech.

Time limits

17. There is no set time limit for the bringing of concerns regarding a degree, but the Academic Registrar may decline to investigate matters where the degree was conferred five or more years ago due to the difficulty in conducting a fair investigation and consideration.

Document control	
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