

## **Honorary Degrees Committee**

*(a standing committee of the Senate)*

### **Terms of reference**

1. To receive nominations for the award of Honorary Degrees and Honorary Fellowships and consider these against agreed criteria.
2. To consider the due diligence work provided on nominated individuals.
3. To make recommendations to Senate on persons whom Honorary Degrees and Honorary Fellowships of the University should be conferred.

### **Committee Composition**

*(ex officio)*

Pro-Chancellor  
Vice-Chancellor (in the Chair)  
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Deputy Chair)  
President of the Students' Union

*(appointed)*

a Pro-Vice-Chancellor with most relevant portfolio as determined by the Vice-Chancellor up to two members drawn from academic staff from each of the four faculties, appointed by the Chair, on the recommendation of appropriate Faculty Dean  
one lay member of the Council appointed by the Council

*(in attendance)*

Registrar, Secretary and Chief Operating Officer  
Head of Stakeholder Relations  
Head of Alumni Engagement and Development Services

### **Procedure**

The Standing Orders set out a standardised approach to committee procedural arrangements, including membership terms, quoracy and declaring interests. All members are encouraged to read the Standing Orders available on the [Governance website](#).

The Committee will normally meet twice a year.

The Committee shall receive an annual report on decisions made by Honorary Degrees Committee Chair's Action on nominations from the Alumni Awards Committee.

As per the University's Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom, all committees considering business that could affect compliance with free speech duties, in line with their delegated authority, are expected to have due regard for any impact on the University's duties to secure and promote the importance of freedom of speech and academic freedom. Any enquiries regarding this should be directed to the Director of Strategic Planning and Governance in the first instance.

## Appendix

### *Criteria for the award of an Honorary Degree*

Candidates nominated for Honorary Degrees should have an outstanding international reputation in their field or in exceptional cases a leading national reputation, and meet at least two of the following additional criteria.

1. They should have existing or potential links with Lancaster University.
2. They should have strong links with the local region.
3. They should be a suitable role model for current students and potential future students.
4. Their work should be associated with a core area of the University's research.
5. The award should contribute to the University's aspiration to become a leading global University.

Candidates may be nominated to receive an honorary degree at an overseas campus or partner college (such as LU Ghana). In this case, the nomination may outline existing or potential links to the overseas campus or partner; and/or its local region.

Honorary Degrees are highly prestigious awards and there is a limit to the number the University can award each year.

### *Criteria for the award of an Honorary Fellowship*

Honorary Fellowships may be awarded to individuals in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the University or its locality, but who may not meet the criteria for an Honorary Degree. Honorary Fellowships may be given to those closely connected with the University or former members of staff.

There is a limit to the number of Honorary Fellowships the University can award each year.

Nominations for an Honorary Degree or an Honorary Fellowship may be put forward by any Member of the University (as set out in the Statutes).

Individuals may not nominate themselves. Honorary awards are not normally given to:

- (i) serving politicians;
- (ii) serving members of Council;
- (iii) staff employed by the University;
- (iv) candidates already in receipt of a significant number of Honorary Degrees from other HEIs, unless they have demonstrable and strong links to Lancaster University.