Guidelines for the Conferment of the University’s Honorary Awards

Honorary awards are conferred on an annual basis during the University’s award ceremony weeks in July and November. They are intended to reward individuals who have attained national and international success and recognition in their chosen field, to maximise the University’s public presence, to allow its Schools to develop closer relationships with distinguished persons and to engage students in the process by inviting recipients of Honorary Awards to maintain their links with the University by giving master classes and public lectures.

The following is designed to explain the process. For further information please contact Registry on 01484 472570.

Criteria

The honorary awards available are Doctor of the University (Hon DUniv), Emeritus/Emerita Vice-Chancellor, Emeritus/Emerita Professor and Emeritus/Emerita Dean.

Honorary awards are conferred for outstanding achievement in the fields of science and technology, learning, the arts, business and the professions, and in public life, regionally, national and internationally. Awards are also considered for those people who have made a distinctive contribution to the University or to the town of Huddersfield. Nominees should be able to demonstrate an on-going commitment to the University.

The titles of Emeritus/Emerita Vice-Chancellor, Emeritus/Emerita Dean and Emeritus/Emerita Professor are conferred on members of staff who are retiring or who have recently reached retirement and who are deemed to have served the University, while in full-time employment, with particular distinction. Evidence of this would be an outstanding contribution to the life of the University through fostering research or through innovative teaching and pioneering course or curriculum development. A continuing activity is expected, preferably in connection with the University, but is not a pre-requisite for the award. The title of Emeritus/Emerita Vice-Chancellor and Emeritus/Emerita Professor will not be confirmed lightly and is considered a particular distinction.

Serving politicians, including Ministers of the Crown, Members of Parliament, front-bench members of the House of Lords, other leading active members of a political party and persons in similar positions in another Country cannot be considered for an award unless the date of their retirement falls within the year of the award and has been publicly announced. Working peers, however, will be considered so long as good reasons for their nomination can be made. In addition, serving members of the University Council or committees cannot be considered until after their retirement from the post.

Honorary awards may also be awarded to back-bench members of the House of Lords, even if affiliated to a political party; ‘elder statesmen’; a person
retired from high Ministerial office, who is unlikely to hold a Cabinet office position again even if they remain a Member of Parliament; and serving Heads of State.

Honorary awards will not normally be awarded in absentia but may be awarded posthumously, subject to the normal criteria of the award.

Nominations which have been considered by the Honorary Awards Committee on three previous occasions will not be forwarded to the committee.

Process for submitting nominations

Council and Committee members, staff and students will be asked twice a year for their nominations, although names will be accepted and held on file at other times of the year. Nominations will also be considered from external members of the public. These are submitted in the first instance to the University’s Registry using the form available for download from https://www.hud.ac.uk/registry/committees/hac/ and to be received by the advertised deadline.

Nominees who were held over for future consideration by the Committee during the previous year will automatically be submitted, but further evidence is welcomed if available.

The nomination form must be completed in full, giving biographical details plus a statement identifying the nominee’s achievements. Other evidence may also be attached to the form (i.e. extracts of written work, web site and newspaper articles, etc).

Although a regional connection is not essential, the proposer should identify a link with the University and/or the school, particularly in relation to the development of future relationships with the nominee.

As nominations are not guaranteed to be successful, proposers should not approach the individual being considered for nomination.

Nominations from Deans for the award of Emeritus/Emerita Professor/Dean will be sought at the start of the year and must be accompanied by a short paragraph stating their reasons for support.

Consideration

Once the indicated deadline has passed, details of nominees will be sent to the Deans of the appropriate School for their consideration (in consultation with staff), and to be organised into one of the following categories:

- Recommended. Deans will be asked to rank the nominations in this category in order of preference and to supply a statement identifying the reasons for the School’s support;
- For future consideration;
- Not recommended.
The Honorary Awards Committee will meet twice a year to consider those nominees recommended by the Schools, taking into consideration the ranking number and statement of support when making their decision.

Registry will advise proposers on the Committee’s decisions on the understanding that this remains confidential.

**Conferral of the Award**

The Honorary Awards Committee will forward its recommendations to Senate and the University Council for their approval. Once approved, the Vice-Chancellor will write to nominees inviting them to accept. Where possible, nominations will be linked to relevant School ceremonies.

The Vice-Chancellor’s Office will organise the programme for the honorary graduand and will act as the point of contact with them after acceptance. The Marketing and Communications Department will be responsible for coordinating publicity for the awards with the media, and all matters related to the nominations will be strictly confidential until a formal press release, authorised by the Vice-Chancellor, is given.

Schools will be invited to offer the Honorary lunch or dinner, a school tour, to give a lecture or to present student prizes, where appropriate. All such events must be coordinated through the Vice-Chancellor’s Office. A member of school staff will be assigned to the honorary to act as hood bearer during the ceremony and a ‘social minder’ will be appointed at Dean, Associate Dean or Professorial level to attend the honorary during lunch to offer insights into the function of the School.

After the conferment of an award, honorary award holders may use the approved designatory letters after their names subject to the inclusion of the prefix ‘Hon’ e.g. Hon DUniv. It is not customary in the UK however, for a recipient of an Honorary Doctorate to use the title ‘Dr’ in front of their name.

The University reserves the right to withdraw the award if, in its opinion, the recipient, by continuing to hold that award, would bring the reputation of the University into disrepute.

March 2016