

REGULATIONS FOR THE AWARD OF HONORARY DEGREES

March 2022

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Summary

What is this document about?

The Regulations for the Award of Honorary Degrees are the Regulations for the conferment of honorary awards for those who have achieved distinction in their own fields of activity and through this have contributed to the wellbeing of society.

Who is this for?

This document will be of most interest to academic staff. It may also be of interest to the wider public.

How does the University check this is followed?

The Honorary Degrees Committee report directly to Academic Council.

Who can you contact if you have any queries about this document?

If you are external to the University and you have any questions about these Regulations please contact Academic Standards, Quality and Partnerships at asqp@port.ac.uk.

If you are internal to the University please contact your Faculty Associate Dean (Academic).

1. Awards

Any award of the University may be conferred in honorary mode. In addition, the following may be conferred honoris causa:

Doctor of the University (DUniv)

Honorary Fellowship of the University (HonFUniv)

2. Honorary Degrees and Awards Committee

2.1 Authority

There shall be an Honorary Degrees and Awards Committee, appointed by Academic Council and the Board of Governors, which shall have delegated powers in respect of the determination of persons, or group of persons, on whom honorary degrees and awards of the University shall be conferred. The Honorary Degrees and Awards Committee shall follow the procedures established by these Regulations.

2.2 Membership

The Honorary Degrees and Awards Committee shall be chaired by the Vice-Chancellor and shall include the Chair of the Board of Governors.

3. Eligibility

3.1 Honorary Degrees

Conferment of Honorary Degrees shall be reserved for individuals who have achieved distinction in their own fields of activity, and the Honorary Degrees and Awards Committee consider the inclusion of (though are not limited to) the following when making the selection:

- Relevance to the University by having one or more of the following:
 - Exceptional achievement and/or service to humanity and have distinguished themselves above others.
 - Exceptional achievement/inspirational work in education or in line with one of the University's research themes and other areas of recognised strength.

- Leadership and impact, at the civic, regional, national and/or international level, including the capacity to deliver reputational and/or relationship benefit to the University.
- Inspirational, innovative change makers who have shown a clear commitment to a better world.
- A champion for social responsibility/a just and equitable society.

Members will consider diversity and inclusion; including the selection of nominees who represent the full spectrum of ethnic and gender diversity in the UK, as well as the international character of the University.

3.2 Honorary Fellowship

Conferment of an Honorary Fellowship of the University shall be reserved for individuals of distinction, and the Honorary Degrees and Awards Committee consider the inclusion of (though are not limited to) the following when making the selection:

- Having a sustained connection with, and be supportive of, the University, its civic mission and its wider community.

Members will consider diversity and inclusion; including the selection of nominees who represent the full spectrum of ethnic and gender diversity in the UK, as well as the international character of the University.

3.3 Exclusion Criteria

The below would not normally be considered for an Honorary Degree or Honorary Fellowship;

- Sitting Member of Parliament
- Existing Member of Staff
- Existing University Governor
- Posthumous Nomination

4. Awards to groups of persons

Conferment of an award, when made to a group of persons, shall involve the presentation of an award and citation to each individual member of the group which shall be appropriate to, and reflect the nature of, their individual contribution to the joint achievement being recognised.

5. Nominations

The Vice-Chancellor shall establish the means of generating confidential nominations for consideration by the Honorary Degrees and Awards Committee.

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