

- 7.1 The Academic Board delegates authority for considering and approving nominations for Honorary Awards to its Honorary Awards Committee, including Honorary Degrees, Visiting and Emeritus titles.

Award of Honorary Degrees

- 7.2 The University confers the following Honorary Degrees:

Award
Doctor of Arts (DA Hon)
Doctor of Business Administration (DBA Hon)
Doctor of Education (EdD Hon)
Doctor of Laws (LLD Hon)
Doctor of Letters (DLitt Hon)
Doctor of Science (DSc Hon)
Doctor of Theology (DTh Hon)
Doctor of the University (DUniv Hon)
Bachelor of Education (BEd Hon)

- 7.3 The University shall grant Honorary Degrees at doctoral level to persons of distinction who have made a major contribution and earned national and international distinction in their field in activities concerning their profession, the advancement of learning, the arts or public affairs. Candidates should demonstrate a connection with Yorkshire or York St John University and have the potential to make a positive contribution to the reputation of the University.
- 7.3.1 The award of DA Hon is normally appropriate where the candidate has made an outstanding contribution in the field of Arts.
- 7.3.2 The award of DBA Hon is normally appropriate where the candidate has made an outstanding contribution in the field of Commerce, Business or Management.
- 7.3.3 The award of EdD Hon is normally appropriate where the candidate has made an outstanding contribution in the field of Education.
- 7.3.4 The award of LLD Hon is normally appropriate where the candidate has made an outstanding contribution in the field of the Law.
- 7.3.5 The award of DLitt Hon is normally appropriate where the candidate has made an outstanding contribution in the field of Letters, Humanities, or the Social Sciences.
- 7.3.6 The award of DSc Hon is normally appropriate where the candidate has made an outstanding contribution in the field of Science, Health, Mathematics, Medicine, Engineering or Technology.
- 7.3.7 The award of DTh Hon is normally appropriate where the candidate has made an outstanding contribution in the field of Theology.

7.3.8 The award of DUniv Hon is normally appropriate where the candidate has made an outstanding contribution to multiple fields, social justice, or their community.

- 7.4 The University shall grant the Honorary Degree of Bachelor of Education to alumni of the University and its antecedents (College of Ripon and York St John, St John's College, and Ripon College) who achieved the intended award of Certificate of Education and who meet the published eligibility criteria.
- 7.5 A recommendation will be made by the Academic Registrar to determine the title of the degree to be awarded, to be approved by the Vice Chancellor. Nominations are strictly confidential.
- 7.6 The Board of Governors shall be notified of the list of Honorary Degrees to be awarded annually.
- 7.7 Each recipient of an Honorary Degree shall be admitted to that degree at a degree ceremony of the University. An Honorary Degree shall not normally be awarded in absentia, except for the Bachelor of Education.
- 7.8 An Honorary Degree is not an academic qualification.
- 7.9 Each recipient of an Honorary Degree may use the approved designatory letters after their name but must not use the title 'Dr' unless entitled to do so by virtue of any other award or qualification they may possess.
- 7.10 Honorary Degrees are usually conferred indefinitely. However, the University retains the right to withdraw an Honorary Degree.
- 7.11 The decision to withdraw an Honorary Degree will follow guidance approved by the Academic Board and be approved by the Chair of the Academic Board.

Award of Visiting Titles

- 7.12 The University shall confer the following visiting titles on individuals of merit, and/or distinction who undertake a regular commitment to support the University with relevant teaching, research, or professional activities:
- Visiting Fellow
 - Visiting Professor
- 7.13 Visiting titles may be conferred to individuals from academic or professional and industry backgrounds.
- 7.14 Visiting Fellows from an academic background are expected to broadly fit the York St John University promotion criteria for Senior Lecturer or Associate Professor. They are expected to have at least one of the following:
- A portfolio of research outputs that are internationally recognised, to internationally excellent.
 - Experience of supervision of research students.
 - Evidence of engagement with research and/or supporting knowledge transfer and/or learning and teaching initiatives within their institution.
 - A developing national reputation for research and knowledge transfer and/or learning and teaching, as judged by peers in the relevant subject/discipline.
 - A developing track record of funding applications.

7.15 Visiting Fellows from a professional or industry background are expected to have status within their organisation that is analogous to a Senior Lecturer or Associate Professor position within a university. They should broadly fit the leadership and esteem aspects of the York St John University promotion criteria for Senior Lecturer or Associate Professor. They are expected to have:

- Management and leadership responsibilities within their organisation.
- Evidence of national level engagement within their sector.
- A developing reputation for leadership and innovation with their sector as judged by their peers.
- A developing track record of working in partnership with a range of organisations within the private and/or public sector and /or contribution to national policy.

7.16 Visiting Professors from an academic background are expected to either (a) hold the title of Professor at another university, or (b) broadly fit the York St John University promotion criteria for professor. They are expected to have:

- A sustained portfolio of research outputs that are internationally excellent, to world leading.
- A record of successful supervision of research students.
- Significant research and/or knowledge transfer leadership responsibilities and/or learning and teaching leadership at a national/international level.
- An international reputation for research and knowledge transfer and/or learning and teaching, as judged by peers in the relevant subject/discipline.
- Sustained and successful external income generation via research grants and knowledge exchange activity.
- Have the potential to make a significant contribution to the University as a whole.

7.17 Visiting Professors from a professional or industry background are expected to have senior leadership status within their organisation that is analogous to a Professorial position within a university. They should broadly fit the leadership and esteem aspects of the York St John University promotion criteria for professor, within their sector context. They are expected to have:

- A track record of strategic leadership.
- Evidence of being an influential leader within their sector.
- A national/international reputation for leadership and innovation with their sector as judged by their peers.
- A sustained track record of working in partnership with a range of organisations within the private and/or public sector and/or contribution to national policy.
- Have the potential to make a significant contribution to the University as a whole.

7.18 Visiting titles are conferred for a three-year term, following which the associated academic school, institute, or department, can choose to apply for further terms.

7.19 Visiting Fellows and Visiting Professors are expected to work with their nominator and key contact to establish a plan of activity for the duration of their term.

Award of Emeritus Professors

7.20 The title of Emeritus Professor may be awarded to a Professor who has left the University to retire.

7.21 It is normally awarded when an individual has given sustained and distinguished service to their field and to the University.

- 7.22 An Emeritus Professor may continue to use the title 'Professor'. In doing so, they should take care in any correspondence to ensure their Emeritus status is clear and that they do not speak on behalf of the University, unless explicitly authorised to do so.
- 7.23 The title of Emeritus Professor is awarded in perpetuity but is not remunerated and the University retains the right to suspend or remove the title where it believes there is good reason to do so.

General

- 7.24 In assessing nominations, the Honorary Awards Committee will have regard to the level of achievement being recognised (threshold), the connection to the work of the University (relevance), and impact upon the reputation of the University (interest).
- 7.25 The Honorary Awards Committee will consider only those nominations submitted in accordance with the nomination procedures approved by the Academic Board.
- 7.26 In approving nominations, the Honorary Awards Committee will have regard to the University's Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Policy.

Associated links: <https://www.yorksj.ac.uk/policies-and-documents/regulations/>
<https://www.yorksj.ac.uk/graduation/honorary-graduates/>

Version control statement

Document property	Detail
Version:	7
Document title:	Regulations for Honorary Awards
Author role and department:	Academic Registrar, Registry
Approved date:	24 June 2026
Approved by:	Academic Board
Equality analysis undertaken:	October 2013

Amendments since approval

Version	Detail of revision:	Date of revision:	Revision approved by:
3	Minor amendment. Paragraphs 7 and 16 amended to clarify full committee title.	27/08/2018	Quality and Standards Committee
3	Paragraphs 6, 7, 18 and 19 amended to set out responsibilities delegated by Academic Board. New paragraph 8 setting out link to Equality, Diversity & Human Rights Policy. New paragraphs 12 and 13 added to clarify that Honorary Degrees are not formal academic qualifications, and that their status should be noted when used.	24/06/2020	Academic Board
4	Honorary Fellowships removed. Doctor of Health Science and Master of the University awards removed. Doctor of Arts added. Paragraphs 6.7 added to clarify the basis on which the Honorary Awards Committee will assess nominations. References to Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee superseded by the Honorary Awards Committee.	29/06/2022	Academic Board
5	Doctor of the University (DUniv Hon) added.	28/06/2023	Academic Board
7	Regulation expanded to cover all honorary awards conferred by the University, including visiting titles and emeritus professorships.	24/06/2026	Academic Board