

Award of Honorary Degrees

7.1 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)

7.2 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.

- 7.2.1 The award of DA Hon is normally appropriate where the candidate has made an outstanding contribution in the field of Arts.
- 7.2.2 The award of DBA Hon is normally appropriate where the candidate has made an outstanding contribution in the field of Commerce, Business or Management.
- 7.2.3 The award of EdD Hon is normally appropriate where the candidate has made an outstanding contribution in the field of Education.
- 7.2.4 The award of LLD Hon is normally appropriate where the candidate has made an outstanding contribution in the field of the Law.
- 7.2.5 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.
- 7.2.6 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.
- 7.2.7 The award of DTh Hon is normally appropriate where the candidate has made an outstanding contribution in the field of Theology.
- 7.2.8 The award of DUniv Hon is normally appropriate where the candidate has made an outstanding contribution to multiple fields, social justice, or their community.

- 7.3 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.
- 7.4 The Academic Board delegates authority for considering and approving nominations for Honorary Degrees to its Honorary Awards Committee.
- 7.5 The Honorary Awards Committee will consider only those nominations submitted in accordance with the nomination procedure approved by the Academic Board. 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 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).
- 7.7 In approving nominations, the Honorary Awards Committee will have regard to the University's Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Policy.
- 7.8 The Board of Governors shall be notified of the list of Honorary Degrees to be awarded annually.
- 7.9 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.
- 7.10 An Honorary Degree is not an academic qualification.
- 7.11 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.
- 7.12 Honorary Degrees are usually conferred indefinitely. However, the University retains the right to withdraw an Honorary Degree.
- 7.13 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.

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

Version control statement

Document property	Detail
Version:	6
Document title:	Regulations for Honorary Degrees
Author role and department:	Academic Registrar, Registry
Approved date:	25 June 2025
Approved by:	Academic Board
Equality analysis undertaken:	October 2013

Amendments since approval

Version	Detail of revision:	Date of revision:	Revision approved by:
3.0	Minor amendment. Paragraphs 7 and 16 amended to clarify full committee title.	27/08/2018	Quality and Standards Committee
3.1	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