

Award of Honorary Degrees

6.1 The University is entitled to grant Honorary Degrees by virtue of the order of the Privy Council of 7 September 2005 which conferred taught degree awarding powers and the section 76 of the Further and Higher Education Act 1998.

6.2 The University confers the following Honorary Degrees:

| Award |
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| Doctor of Letters (D Litt Hon) |
| Doctor of Laws (LLD Hon) |
| Doctor of Science (DSc Hon) |
| Doctor of Business Administration (DBA Hon) |
| Doctor of Education (EdD Hon) |
| Doctor of Theology (DTh Hon) |
| Doctor of Health Sciences (DHSc Hon) |
| Master of the University (MUniv Hon) |
| Bachelor of Education (BEd Hon) |

6.3 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.

6.3.1 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.

6.3.2 The award of LLD Hon is normally appropriate where the candidate has made an outstanding contribution in the field of the Law.

6.3.3 The award of DSc Hon is normally appropriate where the candidate has made an outstanding contribution in the field of Science, Mathematics, Medicine, Engineering or Technology.

6.3.4 The award of DBA Hon is normally appropriate where the candidate has made an outstanding contribution in the field of Commerce, Business or Management.

6.3.5 The award of EdD Hon is normally appropriate where the candidate has made an outstanding contribution in the field of Education.

6.3.6 The award of DTh Hon is normally appropriate where the candidate has made an outstanding contribution in the field of Theology.

6.3.7 The award of DHSc Hon is normally appropriate where the candidate has made an outstanding contribution in the field of Health Sciences.

6.4 The University shall grant Honorary Degrees at Master's level to persons of distinction who have made a major contribution to a specific area of the University or to the region.

- 6.4.1 The award of MUniv Hon is normally appropriate where the candidate has made a major contribution to a specific area of the University or to the region.
- 6.5 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.
- 6.6 The Academic Board delegates authority for considering and approving nominations for Honorary Degrees to its Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee.
- 6.7 The Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee will consider only those nominations submitted in accordance with the nomination procedure approved by the Academic Board, and will determine the title of the degree to be awarded.
- 6.8 In approving nominations, the Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee will have regard to the University's Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Policy.
- 6.9 All staff, students and alumni of the University and the Board of Governors, are invited to make recommendations, in confidence, for the annual awarding of Honorary Degrees.
- 6.10 The Board of Governors shall be notified of the list of Honorary Degrees to be awarded annually.
- 6.11 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, with the exception of the Bachelor of Education.
- 6.12 An Honorary Degree is not an academic qualification.
- 6.13 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.
- 6.14 Honorary Degrees are usually conferred indefinitely. However, the University retains the right to withdraw an Honorary Degree should there be good reason to consider that its retention would cause more damage to the reputation of the University than its removal.
- 6.15 The decision to withdraw an Honorary Degree will be taken by the Vice Chancellor, as Chair of Academic Board, on the advice of the Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee, and subsequently reported to Academic Board and the Governing Body.

Award of Honorary Fellowships

- 6.16 The University may admit a person to an Honorary Fellowship of the University in recognition of:
- 6.16.1 Exceptional service and/or contribution to the University and its community life over a sustained period of time.
- 6.17 Former employees and former governors are eligible for the award of an Honorary Fellowship.
- 6.18 The Academic Board delegates authority for considering and approving nominations for Honorary Fellowships to its Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee.
- 6.19 The Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee will consider only those nominations submitted in accordance with the nomination procedure approved by Academic Board.
- 6.20 All members of the University and the Board of Governors will be invited annually to make recommendations, in confidence, for the award of Honorary Fellowships.
- 6.21 The Board of Governors shall be notified of the list of Honorary Fellowships to be awarded annually.

- 6.22 Each recipient of an Honorary Fellowship shall be admitted to that fellowship at a celebratory event. An Honorary Fellowship shall not normally be awarded in absentia.
- 6.23 Honorary Fellowships are usually conferred indefinitely. However, the University retains the right to withdraw an Honorary Fellowship should there be good reason to consider that its retention would cause more damage to the reputation of the University than its removal.
- 6.24 The decision to withdraw an Honorary Fellowship will be taken by the Vice Chancellor, as Chair of Academic Board, on the advice of the Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee, and subsequently reported to Academic Board and the Governing Body.

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

Version control statement

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| Approved by: | Academic Board |
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Amendments since approval

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|---------|---|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| 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 |