

The Award of Honorary Degrees from 2010

Background

Honorary Degrees conferred by the University recognise the exceptional contributions made by the individuals concerned. In addition the awards made

- **reflect the University's key values** – excellence, engagement and enterprise
- **demonstrate the University's commitment to the creation, development and communication of knowledge** and acknowledge the economic, social and cultural benefits of these activities
- **indicate the University's primary roles** as a major research-led institution, as a regional leader in Higher Education and as the UK's European University and its international outlook.

Honorary Degrees available to be awarded

The following degrees are available to be conferred on appropriate individuals who meet the University's criteria for the award of honorary degrees subject to approval by Senate and Council:

D.Arts	Doctor of Arts*
D.C.L.	Doctor of Civil Law*
D.D.	Doctor of Divinity ⁺
L.L.D.	Doctor of Laws ^o
D.Litt.	Doctor of Letters ^{+o}
D.Mus.	Doctor of Music*
D.Sc.	Doctor of Science ^{~o}
D.Univ.	Doctor of the University*

⁺Faculty of Humanities

^oFaculty of Social Sciences

[~]Faculty of Sciences

*may only be conferred as Honorary Degrees

Consideration of suggestions for awards

In considering suggestions for awards the Honorary Degrees Committee will determine its recommendations for approval by Senate and Council using the criteria set out below having regard to the other considerations which follow as these are relevant.

An honorary degree may be conferred on an individual who has a direct or indirect association with the University or its region and meets at least one of the following criteria:

- (i) the achievement of academic distinction in an academic discipline of the University
- (ii) an exceptional contribution to public life or service, locally, in the University's region, nationally or internationally.

Note: It is recognised that notwithstanding the above there may be exceptional circumstances where it is appropriate to confer an honorary degree on an outstanding individual who meets one or both of (i) and (ii) above but who has no direct or indirect association with the University.

In applying these criteria and determining its recommendations for approval the Committee should

- reflect a range of academic disciplines/other contributions
- seek to honour individuals of distinction or achievement not already over-burdened with honorary degrees from other universities, except in the case of exceptional service to the University and/or Kent/Medway
- recognise diversity
- reflect key elements of the University Plan and strategy such as research excellence, Europe, internationalisation, Medway, widening participation, the importance of the environment and sustainability
- acknowledge significant University anniversaries (such as the 50th anniversary of the University's establishment in 2015) or other key event or theme when appropriate.

Note: Normally no serving member of staff or Council should be recommended for the award of an honorary degree.

Procedures for the consideration of suggestions for the award of honorary degrees

- (i) Suggestions should be submitted using the nomination form which may be found on the University's website (see Central Secretariat: www.kent.ac.uk/censec/other/honorary-degrees.html) by the deadline indicated. Suggestions may be made by individuals or by a group/school(s)/department(s) of the University or by persons external to the University.
- (ii) All suggestions, together with, where relevant, Who's Who entries, will be submitted to the Honorary Degrees Committee for its consideration .
- (iii) The Secretary will provide confidential feedback on suggestions received to those making suggestions.
- (iv) The Committee's recommendations are subject to approval by Senate and Council. They remain confidential until the individuals concerned have been approached informally by the Vice-Chancellor and have agreed to accept the awards and this is published in one or more news releases by the Media Office.
- (v) Honorary Degrees are conferred in person at Congregations of the University.

Queries

Any queries on the above should be sent to Karen Goffin, Secretary of the Honorary Degrees Committee (K.R.Goffin@kent.ac.uk, extn. 3397), or Jo Pearsall, Central Secretariat, (J.L.Pearsall@kent.ac.uk, extn. 4671).

KRG/HAP/JLP
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