Guidelines for the Award of Honorary Degrees

Purpose

Honorary degrees are conferred by the University in recognition of achievement in an area of endeavour. Honorary degrees are not conferred upon current staff.

Principles

Honorary degrees may be awarded to those who meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Individuals who have made an outstanding contribution in their field or to the development of their profession, particularly those who work within the University's areas of distinction.
- Individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the development of some aspect of community or brought honour to the University or locality on the world stage.
- Individuals who exemplify the personal and professional characteristics to which the University wishes its students to aspire.
- Individuals that personify the core values of the University.

The University may confer any of its degree awards as an honorary degree, as set out in its Regulations for Academic Awards which are included in the University's Student Regulations Framework (https://www.marjon.ac.uk/about-marjon/institutional-documents/student-regulations-framework). This includes degrees conferred *honoris causa* for distinguished contribution in an area of endeavour made by members of the public and former colleagues: these degrees would not normally be awarded to politicians currently serving in the UK.

Expectations

Nominations for honorary degrees are approved by the Honorary Nominations Review Panel chaired by the Vice-Chancellor and are notified to Senate and the Board of Governors.

A request for nominations for honorary degrees is circulated in December each year to all members of staff, with nominations being made in confidence to the Executive Support Office Team. It is important that nominees should not be aware of their nomination.

The person making the nomination should provide a reasonable body of information about the nominee so that the Panel is able to make a sound assessment. They should also provide any contact details they may already have for the nominee. The key criteria will be used to assess nominations and should form the basis of supporting information provided by the nominee.

The University will:

The University will abide by the Terms of Reference for the Honorary Nominations Advisory Panel, which reports to Senate. These are posted on the University website at https://www.marjon.ac.uk/about-marjon/institutional-documents/terms-of-reference.

The University should:

Confer awards at the next convenient University graduation or awards ceremony. Following approval of the nomination, the Executive Support Team will write to each nominee to inform them of the nomination and the reasons supporting the decision, and will normally invite them to attend a graduation ceremony for the conferment of the award. Honorary awards cannot normally be conferred *in absentia*, although Virtual Honorary Awards can be conferred, in exceptional circumstances, on nominees who cannot attend the next graduation ceremony in person due to extreme health conditions.

Honorary degrees should be awarded both as a means of:

- honouring those whose achievement have not yet been recognised, or;
- attracting high profile role models and ambassadors for the University.

The University could:

In exceptional circumstances, where it would not otherwise be possible for a nominee to attend the next graduation ceremony, the Honorary Nominations Advisory Panel could approve nominations virtually.

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