

GLASGOW CALEDONIAN UNIVERSITY

HONORARY DEGREES COMMITTEE

CONFIDENTIAL NOMINATIONS FOR THE AWARD OF AN HONORARY DEGREE OF THE UNIVERSITY AT A GRADUATION AND AWARDS CEREMONY

Notes of Guidance on the Criteria for the Confidential Nomination and Award of Honorary Degree

1. This nomination process is **strictly confidential** and under no circumstances should it be discussed or communicated beyond those making the nomination and the Honorary Degrees Committee. If confidentiality is found to have been broken the nomination will be withdrawn with immediate effect.
2. The University confers honorary degrees on persons of distinction who have made or are likely to make a major contribution to the work of the University or have earned distinction for activities more widely in the community, i.e. education, the professions, business, trade unions, culture, creative work or public service.
3. School Boards are asked to put forward nominations for Honorary Degrees to each meeting of the Honorary Degrees Committee. Nominations may come forward from departmental level, or may be forwarded by individual members of staff to the Executive Dean. Collected nominations from within the School should be considered by a nominated group of the School Board, chaired by the Executive Dean, and where accepted forwarded to the Secretary of the Honorary Degrees Committee. Schools are encouraged in particular to consider academic nominations and to seek nominees that reflect the work and academic direction of the School. All nominations must be held in the strictest confidence and **should not be discussed with the individuals concerned nor should they be made aware of their nomination** until approval has been granted by the Honorary Degrees Committee on behalf of Senate.
4. Members of University Staff and University Court are invited to submit, in confidence, nominations for honorary degrees of the University to be awarded at the graduation ceremonies in June and November. **Nominations should not be discussed with the individuals concerned nor should they be made aware of their nomination** until approval has been granted by the Honorary Degrees Committee on behalf of Senate.

Successful nominations will demonstrate excellence in at least one of:

- Academe:** A record of distinction in research **or** innovation in learning and teaching **or** academic/institutional leadership which is internationally recognised and valued.
- Entrepreneurialism:** A clearly demonstrable record of entrepreneurial achievement of national or international importance. This may be purely business achievement, in which case evidence of philanthropy would be beneficial, or social entrepreneurialism in line with the University's Vision and Mission.
- Achievement:** This may be any walk of life e.g. The Arts, Sport, Public Life, Business and Commerce etc. The criterion is that the achievement is truly outstanding. A local connection is beneficial, but not a requirement.

Nominations **must** be submitted by completion of the Honorary Degrees Committee Nomination Proforma, available by emailing honorarydegrees@gcu.ac.uk or downloaded from the Honorary Degrees Webpage at <http://www.gcal.ac.uk/registry/secretariat/HonoraryDegreesCommittee.html>.

The proforma **must** contain a supporting statement and **an outline CV** indicating clearly how the nominee has **either contributed/will contribute to the work of the University or earned distinction in other areas**. The case will be strengthened by establishing a clear regional connection or, at national or international levels, distinction in a specific field. A specific University connection will add considerable weight to the case. **Proposals are to provide as much information as possible, within the constraints imposed by confidentiality, to enable the Honorary Degrees Committee** to reach a preliminary view prior to making whatever additional investigations are considered necessary.

5. There are two categories of honorary awards:

5.1 **Honorary Doctorate Degree** - appropriate for those who have made a major contribution at national and/or international level and/or who have made an exceptional contribution to the development of the University.

5.2 **Honorary Fellowship** - appropriate for those who have made a major direct contribution to the general development of the University.

(Note: The Honorary Degrees Committee may, at its discretion and in exceptional and minuted circumstances, determine that the award should be at a 'higher' level than the above criteria might suggest)

6. The Honorary Degrees Committee will only, very exceptionally, consider awards to nominees in the undernoted categories:

- Active Politicians, local or national other than those who have reached senior Cabinet position or are recognised as filling a Statesman/Stateswoman role
- Current Members of Court and the salaried Staff of the University
- Candidates whose nominations are based primarily on the fact that they are External Assessors of the University

7. The list of honorary degree awards available is as under noted:

Doctor of Science (DSc)
Doctor of Letters (DLitt)
Doctor of Technology (DTech)
Doctor of the University (DUniv)
Doctor of Engineering (DEng)
Doctor of Business Administration (DBA)
Doctor of Laws (LLD)
Honorary Fellowship