

## **Ordinance 31**

### **Honorary Degrees and Honorary Fellowships**

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## **Ordinance 31**

### **Honorary Degrees and Honorary Fellowships**

1. An honorary degree or honorary fellowship is one of Bangor University's most significant accolades and provides a lifelong link between the individual and Bangor University. Awarding honorary degrees and fellowships also supports the process of extending the University's network of prestigious contacts and supporters. The University particularly welcomes proposals that reflect the cultural diversity and international character of the University and which promote its commitment to equality and diversity.
2. The Council has delegated the procedure for nominating individuals for honorary degrees and fellowships to the Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee who, having followed the procedure below, will provide recommendations to the Council of those individuals whom they believe should receive the awards.
3. Degrees which may be conferred
  - 3.1 The honorary degrees which may be conferred by Bangor University are:
    - Doctor of Divinity (DD);
    - Doctor of Laws (LLD);
    - Doctor of Medicine (MD);
    - Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS);
    - Doctor of Letters (DLitt);
    - Doctor of Science (DSc);
    - Doctor of Music (DMus);
    - Doctor of Science in Social Science (DSc (Social Science));
    - Doctor of Education (DEd)
    - Master of Arts (MA);
    - Master of Science (MSc);
    - Bachelor of Arts (BA); and
    - Bachelor of Science (BSc).
  - 3.2 The University may choose to confer an Honorary Fellowship. The title recognises outstanding distinction in an academic field and/or a particular and consistent contribution over a period of time to the life of the University, locally, nationally or internationally. Honorary Fellowships would normally be conferred on individuals who have made contributions of direct relevance and / or benefit to the University.
4. Criteria for the award of Honorary Degrees or Honorary Fellowships
  - 4.1 The following will represent the criteria to be considered for the award of an honorary degree or fellowship:
    - a) Genuine achievement and distinction in an activity consonant with the mission, values and strategy of the University, including: scholarship, the advancement of learning, welfare diversity and social responsibility, creativity and innovation, enterprise, public service; or significant demonstration of personal qualities that exemplify the University's values, including: integrity, pursuit of excellence, resilience and courage.

- b) Being of sufficient standing professionally and personally to be an exemplar and of interest to undergraduate and postgraduate students attending the graduation ceremony, and to their families.
  - c) An existing or possible future association between the individual and the University.
- 4.2 Inclusivity and diversity are important strands of the Bangor University strategy. Nominations on behalf of women and other frequently under-represented groups, that enhance the overall diversity of the University's honorary graduates, are therefore particularly welcome.
- 4.3 Honorary degrees will not be awarded to individuals in current employment at Bangor University. Former employees of the University might occasionally be honoured for exceptional service to the University and former academic staff that retain an honorary connection to the University (e.g. Emeritus Professors) might exceptionally be considered, where their particular achievement has impacted uniquely beyond the usual scope.
- 4.4 The following accomplishments are regarded as not in themselves sufficient reason for consideration:
  - a) currently holding elected public office;
  - b) acts of philanthropy, including towards Bangor University;
  - c) receiving popular acclaim

But they would not be a bar to consideration should one or more of the criteria set out in 4.1 above be met.

## 5. Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee

- 5.1 The Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee is a University committee convened to consider, and to provide recommendations for the award of Honorary Degrees and Fellowships to the Council. The core membership of the Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee is set out below.
- 5.2 The Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee can co-opt any members of academic and / or professional staff to its membership as is required depending on the nature of the nominations during any given academic year.
- 5.3 The Chair of the Committee will be the President/Vice-Chancellor. The University Secretary (or nominee) will act as Secretary to the Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee.

## 6. Nominations

- 6.1 Nominations for honorary degrees and fellowships will be open throughout the year. The University Secretary (or nominee) will remind all members of staff, the Students' Union, members of Council and alumni of the nominations process periodically throughout the year.

- 6.2 The Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee will be convened twice a year to consider the nominations. The Committee will consider all nominations, and will settle on a proposed list of recommendations which will be discussed and approved by the Council at the next meeting. . 6.3 The University Secretary (or nominee) will provide feedback to those who have nominated individuals, including where the nomination has been unsuccessful.
- 6.4 The Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee, and the Council will maintain strict confidentiality in relation to those being nominated until such time as the Council has approved their nomination, and the individual themselves have accepted.
- 6.5 Nominations to the University Secretary (or nominee) will need to include:
- a) a supporting submission on a form provided, including an introductory statement, of no more than 500 words, setting forth the principal grounds for the nomination;
  - b) a brief chronological, narrative account of the nominee's life and work;
  - c) an outline of the nominee's most significant achievements;
  - d) an assessment of their standing on a basis of international comparison or in the life of North Wales, Wales or the United Kingdom. Connection to North Wales or Wales (providing evidence of what benefit has been received within the University or the area), or if none, any tangible association with the University's values;
  - e) a suggestion on which award the individual making the nomination considers most appropriate, although the final decision will rest with the Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee, and
  - e) any other information the proposer would wish to bring to the attention of the Committee.
- Nominations should also, where relevant, be accompanied by details of the nominees' published works in an Appendix.
- 6.6 In exceptional circumstances the Nominations & Governance Committee may make a recommendation to award an honorary degree or an honorary fellowship posthumously.

## 7. Conferment of Degree / Fellowship

- 7.1 Honorary Degrees, Honorary Fellowships may be conferred at any of the University's degree ceremonies during an academic year and are not limited to the ceremonies taking place each summer, or necessarily to ceremonies being held at Bangor.
- 7.2 Honorary degrees and fellowships would not normally be conferred *in absentia*. Where a proposed recipient is unable or unwilling to attend a degree ceremony for admission, this may prevent conferral of the degree or fellowship. In such cases the individual will be invited to attend a further ceremony in the future.
- 7.3 The recipient will be invited to attend the graduation ceremony which fits most closely with the individual's academic or other background and will be invited to

briefly address the congregation at the ceremony, following the conferment of the degree or fellowship

8. Honorary Degree / Honorary Fellowship Withdrawal Procedure

- 8.1 Consideration of the withdrawal of an Honorary Degree / Honorary Fellowship can only be made on receipt of substantial new information which, for good reason, was not available to the Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee when it approved the award.
- 8.2 The Nominations & Governance Committee will consider the withdrawal of an honorary degree or fellowship following a request by one of the formal committees of the University as a result of a majority vote. In addition, the President/Vice-Chancellor can refer a case for review. Such a request should be sent, in the first instance, to the University Secretary.
- 8.3 The Nominations & Governance Committee will undertake a review of the case seeking advice as necessary from other members of the University and if relevant to do so from external individuals and organisations. In addition, and where possible, the holder of the honorary degree, or fellowship will be invited to comment on the proposal to withdraw the degree or fellowship.
- 8.4 The Nominations & Governance Committee will make a recommendation on the matter, including consideration of any comments made by the award holder. Any such recommendation will be reported to the next meeting of the Council. It is the Council's decision whether to withdraw an honorary degree, or fellowship, and its decision will be final.
- 8.5 University Secretary, on behalf of the Chair of Council will communicate the Council's decision to the individual, confirming that the degree, or fellowship has been withdrawn.

9. Relationship with Recipients of Honorary Degrees and Fellowships

- 9.1 Receipt of an honorary degree, or fellowship from Bangor University establishes a lifelong link. The University would therefore wish to keep in contact with its honorary graduates, and individuals in receipt of Bangor University Honorary Degrees and Fellowships will be invited:
  - a) to deliver a lecture or a series of lectures either to the relevant School or a distinct group of students and staff, or as part of the University's public lecture series;
  - b) to graduation ceremonies at the University; or
  - c) to the Honorary Degrees and Fellowships dinner.
- 9.2 A list of the University's honorary graduates will be included on the University's website, and a selection of those honoured will be on display at each graduation ceremony.
- 9.3 All social media and press updates in relation to the recipients of honorary degrees and fellowships will be overseen by the University's Communications & Brand team.