

Nominations for Honorary Degrees, Fellowships and the Queen Mary Medal:
Guidance and Eligibility Criteria

Queen Mary bestows honorary awards to outstanding individuals who are distinguished in their chosen career or field. Recipients of Honorary Degrees and Fellowships should exemplify Queen Mary values, and provide an inspiring example to students, especially graduates. An important role of Honorary Degree holders and Fellows is to actively promote Queen Mary's reputation and profile on a national and international level, thereby contributing to the university's mission.

Queen Mary awards the following honours to distinguished persons:

- Honorary Degrees
- Fellowships
- Queen Mary Medal

Honorary Degrees

The categories of persons who are normally considered for the award of Honorary Degrees include:

- i. Outstanding individuals who have distinguished themselves in their chosen field, are of national or international standing, and have the potential and the interest to actively promote Queen Mary;
- ii. Individuals who have given distinguished service to the local community of Queen Mary and/or wider London;
- iii. Individuals who have given distinguished service or brought distinction to Queen Mary;
- iv. Former students of Queen Mary who have risen to the heights of their chosen career or field of service.

While it is expected that most Honorary Graduates will fall into one or more of these criteria, they are not exclusive. An existing personal connection with Queen Mary and/or its local community is not required. These awards may be used to help establish valuable relationships as much as celebrate existing ones.

These awards seek to build the profile and reputation of Queen Mary, to engage with individuals who can enrich the lives of students and staff, and to honour those who have made a significant contribution to their chosen field and have achieved national or international standing. It is expected that Honorary Graduates will enter into a mutually-beneficial relationship with Queen Mary and actively contribute to the life of the Queen Mary community. Nominators are asked to describe the ways in which the nominee and Queen Mary might work together to these ends.

An honorary degree will not normally be conferred on a person who has already been awarded an honorary degree of the University of London or Queen Mary, on a serving Chair of the governing body of a college of the University of London, or on a person currently employed by Queen Mary. A serving politician, in the UK or other country, will not normally be eligible.

An honorary degree will not, save in exceptional circumstances, be conferred *in absentia*.

Fellowships of Queen Mary University of London

Fellowships of Queen Mary University of London are conferred on persons of distinction or persons who have, in the opinion of Council and Senate, rendered significant service to Queen Mary or to the community, or with a demonstrable connection or affiliation to Queen Mary. A Fellowship will not be conferred on a person currently employed by Queen Mary or a member of Council.

'Persons of distinction' includes individuals who have become distinguished in their chosen field and are of national or international standing, and who have the potential and interest to engage with Queen Mary to enrich the lives of staff and students. It is expected that the Fellow will enter into a mutually-beneficial relationship with Queen Mary and actively contribute to the life of the Queen Mary community. Nominators are asked to describe the ways in which the nominee and Queen Mary might work together to these ends.

Queen Mary Medal

The Queen Mary Medal may be awarded on or following retirement to any employee of Queen Mary, who in the opinion of Council has made an exceptional, sustained contribution to Queen Mary. For this purpose, Council will judge an exceptional and sustained contribution as being more than long service alone, and will look for performance and commitment beyond the normal requirements of the post held by the individual.

Nomination rights of Honorary Degrees, Fellowships and the Queen Mary Medal

All members of the Queen Mary community, including students, staff, alumni and Council members are invited to submit nominations for Honorary Degrees, Fellowships and the Queen Mary Medal.

Procedures for awarding Honorary Degrees, Fellowships and the Queen Mary Medal

Nominations for Honorary Degrees, Fellowships and the Queen Mary Medal go through Queen Mary's governance processes. Nominations are reviewed by an advisory panel before being considered by the Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee. The Committee's recommendations are considered by Senate and approved by Council.

Successful nominees will be invited by the President and Principal to receive their awards at the next graduation ceremonies. Nominators will also be expected to help prepare the oration should the nomination be successful.

Nominations for Honorary Degrees, Fellowships and the Queen Mary Medal are **strictly confidential** and nominations should not be mentioned in any circumstances to the nominees.

A list of previous recipients of Honorary Degrees, Fellowships and the Queen Mary Medal can be found [here](#).

QUEEN MARY UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

ORDINANCES

PART A – THE ORGANISATION OF QUEEN MARY UNIVERSITY OF LONDON (QMUL)

Ordinance A17: Fellows of QMUL

1. The Council may elect as Fellows of QMUL persons of distinction or persons who have in the opinion of the Council rendered significant service to QMUL or to the community, or with a demonstrable connection to or affiliation with QMUL. On the appointed day, Fellows and Honorary Fellows of the former Colleges shall become Fellows of QMUL. With effect from the date of coming into force of the Queen Mary and Westfield College Act 1995, all existing Fellows of QMUL became Honorary Fellows of QMUL.
2. A Fellowship may not be conferred on a person currently employed by QMUL or member of Council.
3. All Fellowships will normally be conferred by the Chairman of Council. In the absence of the Chairman of Council, Fellowships will be conferred by the Vice-Chairman of Council.
4. A proposal to confer a Fellowship will be made by the Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee. The proposal will be considered by the Senate and approved by the Council.
5. The revocation of a Fellowship will be recommended by the Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee, considered by the Senate and approved by the Council in cases where the Fellow's behaviour and/or views expressed are deemed to be inconsistent with QMUL values or to bring QMUL into disrepute. Concerns shall be raised with the Chairman or the Secretary to Council and the Fellow will be invited to comment on the reasons for the proposed withdrawal of the Fellowship before a decision is taken.

Ordinance A18: Honorary Degrees

1. QMUL may confer honorary degrees.
2. The honorary degrees that may be awarded are outlined in Ordinance A16 1.7
3. An honorary degree will not normally be conferred on a serving Chairman of the governing body of a College, or a person currently employed by QMUL.
4. An honorary degree will not normally be conferred on a 'serving politician', including:
 - 1.1 Ministers of the Crown;
 - 1.2 Members of the House of Commons;
 - 1.3 front bench members of the House of Lords;
 - 1.4 other leading active members of a political party; and
 - 1.5 persons in similar positions in other countries.

However, honorary degrees may be awarded to:

- 1.6 back-bench members of the House of Lords, even if affiliated to a political party;
- 1.7 a person retired from high Ministerial office, who is unlikely to hold a Cabinet office position again even if they remain a Member of Parliament; and

1.8 serving Heads of State.

5. An honorary degree will not normally be conferred on a person who: has already been awarded an honorary degree of the University of London or QMUL.
6. An honorary degree will not, save in exceptional circumstances, be conferred *in absentia*.
7. Where the Council has formally resolved to confer an honorary degree on a person, and the death of that person occurs before the conferment takes place, the honorary degree will be deemed to have been conferred, the date of the conferment being deemed to be the day preceding the date of death.
8. All honorary degrees will normally be conferred by the President and Principal. In the absence of the President and Principal, honorary degrees will be conferred by the Vice-Principal.
9. A proposal to confer an honorary degree will be made by the Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee. The proposal will be considered by the Senate and approved by the Council.
10. The revocation of an honorary degree will be recommended by the Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee, considered by the Senate and decided by the Council in cases where the holder's behaviour and/or views expressed are deemed to be inconsistent with QMUL values or to bring QMUL into disrepute. Concerns shall be raised with the Chairman or the Secretary to Council and the holder will be invited to comment on the reasons for the proposed withdrawal of the degree before a decision is taken.

Ordinance A19: Queen Mary Medal

1. The Council may resolve to issue a Queen Mary Medal on or following retirement to any employee of QMUL, who in its opinion has made an exceptional sustained contribution to QMUL. For this purpose, the Council will judge an exceptional and sustained contribution as being more than long service alone, and will look for performance and commitment beyond the normal requirements of the post held by the individual concerned.
2. A proposal to issue a Queen Mary Medal will be made by the Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee. The proposal will be considered by the Senate and approved by the Council.
3. All Queen Mary Medals will normally be issued by the Chairman of Council. In the absence of the Chairman of Council, Queen Mary Medals will be conferred by the Vice-Chairman of Council.