

HONORARY AWARDS COMMITTEE

Terms of Reference

1. To govern under the authority of HKUST Ordinance and Statutes (see *Annex*), and under the delegation of the HKUST Council (“Council”), all matters related to conferring of honorary degrees and awards;
2. To recommend to Council the establishment of or the amendment thereof procedures or guidelines in relation to the nomination and selection of candidates of honorary degrees and awards;
3. To recommend to Council the award of honorary degrees and awards annually.

Guidelines Relating to the Honorary Awards

The University Ordinance

Section 5(l) states that the University may confer degrees and offer academic awards including honorary degrees and honorary awards.

Statutes of the University

Paragraph 5 of University Statute 6 states that:

“Honorary degrees and honorary academic awards may be conferred by the University on any person who has rendered distinguished service to the University or the community, in the advancement of learning and knowledge or otherwise, or who in the opinion of the Council is worthy of such a degree or academic award for outstanding human endeavor or devotion to the greater good of mankind.”

Guidelines relating to honorary doctorates

The University should aim to award four to six honorary doctorates annually, to be divided evenly if possible between the academics and non-academics.

1. For the “academic” award, in addition to academic excellence, the person should:
 - (a) be highly respected in the academic world in either academic eminence or administrative achievement;
 - (b) have some connection with Hong Kong;
 - (c) ideally, project a positive image to students, being someone they might wish to emulate -- in that sense, be seen as a model of success; and
 - (d) that the award should reflect one of the disciplines at HKUST.
2. For the “non-academic” award, emphasis is placed on service, either contributed or potential (on an exceptional basis), to the community and/or to the University.
3. Generally speaking, priority would not be given to the following categories of people:
 - (a) serving Council Members;
 - (b) serving Government officials;
 - (c) those who have received honorary degrees from local universities in recent years; and
 - (d) those who cannot be physically present at the Congregation ceremony to receive the award in person.

Guidelines relating to honorary fellowships

The University may award up to a maximum of six honorary fellowships annually. Any member of the community who has made significant contributions to HKUST, or to Hong Kong in areas relevant to HKUST, becomes eligible to be nominated for the award. Examples of such contributions may include long service on advisory committees of the University at department, school, or university level; and assistance in the establishment of research centers or facilities. Very exceptionally, a person who has a great possibility or potential to make significant contributions to HKUST, or to Hong Kong in areas relevant to HKUST, may be considered.