

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](#).

ORDINANCE 11

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORARY DEGREES AND THE QUEEN MARY MEDAL

1. The Council may confer and revoke Fellowships and Honorary Degrees of the University, and issue the Queen Mary Medal, on the proposal or recommendation of the Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee and after consulting the Senate. The Honorary Degrees that may be conferred are:
 - (a) Doctor of Laws honoris causa (LLD);
 - (b) Doctor of Letters honoris causa (DLitt);
 - (c) Doctor of Sciences honoris causa (DSc).
2. Fellows of the University shall be persons of distinction, or persons who have in the opinion of the Council rendered significant service to the University or to the community, or with a demonstrable connection or affiliation to the University. A Fellowship shall not be conferred on a current employee of the University or member of the Council.
3. Honorary Degrees shall be reserved for persons of significant standing who have distinguished themselves in their chosen field, or for their service, and whose recognition with an Honorary Degree brings distinction to the University. An Honorary Degree shall not be conferred on a current employee of the University or member of the Council, a serving politician or a person who has previously received an Honorary Degree of the University or the University of London.
4. The Queen Mary Medal may be issued on or following retirement to any employee of the University who, in the opinion of the Council, has made an exceptional, sustained contribution to the University beyond long service alone and fulfilment of the normal requirements of their role.
5. Council may revoke a Fellowship or Honorary Degree if evidence comes to light that the recipient has at any time:
 - (a) been convicted of a criminal offence;
 - (b) been censured or struck off by a relevant regulatory or professional body;
 - (c) displayed any behaviour that is deemed to be inconsistent with the values of the University or to bring the University into disrepute.
6. Concerns or complaints about Fellows and recipients of Honorary Degrees shall be raised with the Chair of Council or the Secretary to Council. In the case of a concern or complaint containing one or more of the grounds listed in paragraph 5 of this Ordinance, the Secretary to Council shall ask the Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee to consider the concern or complaint and make a recommendation to the Council. Where a recommendation is made to revoke a Fellowship or Honorary Degree, the subject of the concern or complaint shall be invited to comment on the reasons for the recommendation before Council is asked to decide.

Approved by the Council on 11 July 2024.