

**POLICY FOR THE AWARD OF UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK  
HONORARY DOCTORATES**

***Approved by Governing Authority  
November 2005***

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### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The following policy was approved by the Governing Authority at meeting M00-5 held on 27 June 2000. It was revised by the Authority in November 2003 to provide for the fast-tracking of the approval process for the award of Honorary Doctorates of the University in exceptional circumstances.

### **2. Legal Background**

- 2.1 Section 27.2(f) of the Universities Act, 1997 grants authority to the University  
*“to make recommendations for the awarding of fellowships, scholarships, bursaries, prizes or other awards”*

### **3. General Guidelines**

- 3.1 Candidates for the award of Honorary Doctorates should be chosen to ensure that the most worthy candidates are honoured and that the currency of such prestigious awards is not debased.

### **4. Categories**

- 4.1 Nominations for Honorary Doctorates should be based on one or more of the following:
- Academic Distinction;
  - Exceptional Achievement;
  - Outstanding Service to the University.

### **5. Criteria**

- 5.1 The following criteria should apply in considering nominees for Honorary Doctorates:
- (i) Personal achievement and worth should be the prime criteria.
  - (ii) The award of the degree should be made to persons distinguished in the arts, sciences, business, industry, the professions, sport, social and public service nationally or internationally.
  - (iii) It is desirable that candidates should have some association with Ireland and/or the University of Limerick.
  - (iv) The selection of candidates will be made with due regard to the principles of social inclusion and gender balance.
  - (v) Honorary degrees should not be conferred upon a person solely on the basis of donations of any kind made to the University.

- (vi) Honorary degrees should not be conferred on individuals actively engaged in politics or public service in Ireland while so involved.
- (vii) Honorary degrees should not be conferred on a person while a member of the faculty, staff or Governing Authority of the University.

## **6. Titles of Awards**

### **6.1 Degrees to be awarded:**

Doctor of Economic Science (D.Econ.Sc)	-	honoris causa
Doctor of Engineering (D.Eng)	-	honoris causa
Doctor of Laws (LL.D.)	-	honoris causa
Doctor of Letters (D.Litt.)	-	honoris causa
Doctor of Science (D.Sc.)	-	honoris causa.

## **7. Number of Awards**

- 7.1 The number of awards should not normally exceed four in any calendar year. It may be that fewer may be awarded in certain years. A balance between disciplines should be achieved over a period of time.

## **8. Process**

- 8.1 Nominations for awards of Honorary Doctorates will be considered by a joint committee of Governing Authority and Academic Council, to be termed “the Joint Honorary Doctorate Committee”, with the following composition:

Chancellor (Chairperson)  
Two nominees from Governing Authority  
Two nominees from Academic Council  
President  
Registrar & Corporate Secretary.

- 8.2 Members of the Governing Authority and Academic Council will be invited to submit the names of candidates each calendar year for consideration by the Honorary Doctorate Committee.
- 8.3 The Honorary Doctorate Committee will also consider nominations received from the Campus and the wider community.
- 8.4 Confidentiality will be strictly observed. The nominee will not be made aware of the proposal.
- 8.5 Recommendations from the Joint Honorary Doctorate Committee will be considered by Academic Council. A recommendation will then be made by the Joint Honorary Doctorate Committee to the Governing Authority for approval.

- 8.6 Honorary degrees should not normally be conferred in absentia.
- 8.7 Honorary degrees should be conferred off campus in exceptional circumstances only.
- 8.8 The format of Conferring Ceremonies will be set out in accompanying Procedures.

## **9. Fast-Tracking of Honorary Doctorate Approval Process**

- 9.1 While adhering to the criteria for the award of an Honorary Doctorate set out in Section 5 above, the following fast-tracking process of approval of the award of Honorary Doctorates will apply in exceptional circumstances:
- The Chancellor, following consultation with the President, will convene an emergency meeting of the Joint Governing Authority/Academic Council Honorary Doctorate Committee. In the event members of the Committee are unavailable to attend the meeting at short notice, then the nomination for the award of an Honorary Doctorate will be circulated to members of the Committee and a poll of members' views will be undertaken by telephone.
  - Where there is consensus of members of the Committee that an Honorary Doctorate should be awarded, then the Chancellor, following consultation with the President, will approve the award of the Honorary Doctorate.
  - Members of the Academic Council and the Governing Authority will be written to immediately informing them of the decision to award an Honorary Doctorate. The decision will be noted in the minutes of the subsequent Academic Council and Governing Authority meetings.