

St George's, University of London, Honorary Awards Policy

Introduction

1. St George's, University of London (SGUL) may confer the following honorary awards:
 - 1.1. Honorary Fellowship
 - 1.2. Honorary Degree: Doctor of Science (DSc) or Doctor of Science (Medicine) (DSc(Med))

Criteria for Honorary Awards

2. Honorary awards holders are expected to uphold SGUL's values and reputation, and to be suitable role models for its students. They are also expected to act in a way that is consistent with the Nolan Principles of Public Life. Additional criteria for specific awards are set out below.
3. Criteria for Honorary Fellowships:
 - 3.1. Honorary Fellows have made an outstanding contribution to SGUL and its community, above and beyond reasonable expectations and over a sustained period.
 - 3.2. Honorary Fellows are expected to have a continuing link with SGUL and the nominators should describe in the nomination form how this will be achieved.
 - 3.3. Honorary fellowships are not normally awarded to current members of Council and SGUL staff, or to serving politicians.
4. Criteria for Honorary Degrees
 - 4.1. Individuals are distinguished in their chosen field and are of national or international standing.
 - 4.2. Individuals are not required to have a previous connection with SGUL but awards may be used to build the profile and reputation of SGUL and to engage with individuals who can act as 'champions' or supporters now or in the future. The nominators should describe in the nomination form how this will be achieved.
 - 4.3. Honorary degrees are not normally awarded to current members of Council or SGUL staff, to serving politicians, to individuals whose contribution or achievements lie chiefly in service of SGUL, or to someone who is already an Honorary Fellow of SGUL.

Nominations for Honorary Awards

5. Nominations for honorary awards are made by current members of staff and students, members of Council, and alumni. Each individual should be proposed by two nominators.
6. A nomination form must be completed by the nominators and should clearly explain how the nominee meets the criteria.
7. Nomination forms will be reviewed by the Clerk to the Nominations and Honorary Awards Committee and will only be accepted if completed appropriately and in full.
8. Upon receipt of a nomination form, a basic due diligence process will be undertaken on each nominee, in order to check for any issues that might result in a nominee not meeting the criteria set out in paragraph 2. After an award is approved by the Committee, a further due

diligence check may be done before an award is offered to the nominee. It is not expected that due diligence would take place after an award has been offered.

9. Honorary awards are proposed by the Nominations and Honorary Awards Committee and approved by the Council. Considerations of equity and diversity will be taken into account when decisions are made.
10. Nominations for honorary awards are made in strict confidence and nominators should not communicate with nominees about a prospective or approved award unless authorised to do so.

Conferral of Honorary Awards

11. Conferral normally takes place at graduation ceremonies and only takes place *in absentia* in exceptional circumstances. If an honorand dies before their award has been conferred, then conferral is dated from the day before their death.

Revocation of Honorary Awards

12. Honorary fellows and honorary graduates are expected to uphold SGUL's values, to be suitable role models for its students and to act in a way consistent with the Nolan Principles of Public Life. In exceptional circumstances, it may come to light that an honorand, honorary fellow or honorary graduate either has not met or no longer meet the criteria for award described in paragraphs 2-4, above, or that their status as an award holder may bring SGUL into disrepute. In such circumstances, the Nominations and Honorary Awards Committee may review and recommend the revocation of an honorary award, in accordance with this policy.
13. Review of an honorary award is a serious matter and will not be undertaken lightly. Concerns about any honorary award holder should be referred to the Clerk to Council. Any review must be authorised by the Chair of Council following consultation with the Principal and the Clerk to Council. The individual concerned will be notified in writing that their award is under review and provided with a copy of this Policy.
14. Any review of an honorary award will be conducted fairly and will assess evidence provided in support of a claim that there has been breach of this Policy and/or that there is reputational risk to SGUL. The Clerk to Council will make any enquiries considered necessary as part of the review. The review will be conducted with respect for the privacy of the individual concerned, although it may not always be possible for full confidentiality to be maintained about the existence of a review.
15. The findings of any review will normally be presented to the Nominations and Honorary Awards Committee and a recommendation made for approval by the Council at its next ordinary meeting. In exceptional circumstances, it may be necessary for a decision to be made by the Chair of Council and reported to the next meeting of Council. The individual concerned will be notified in writing of the outcome. The decision of Council is final and there is no right of appeal.
16. SGUL will not normally revoke honorary awards made to individuals who are no longer living unless clear evidence is provided that SGUL's reputation will be brought into disrepute by not revoking the award.

EW/ June 2022

Approved by the Nominations and Honorary Awards Committee May 2022
Approved by Council June 2022