



# **Guidelines for the Award of the Honorary Doctoral Degrees**

# **GUIDELINES FOR THE AWARD OF HONORARY DOCTORATE DEGREES BY THE UNIVERSITY OF RWANDA**

## **1. Objective**

The objective of the honorary doctorate degree is to recognise individuals who have extraordinary and profound contributions in areas of scholarship, culture and social transformation, both locally and internationally. Individuals accorded such honour must be persons of high integrity reflective of the values of University of Rwanda. They must also be of high stature and enjoy a high level of recognition to ensure that the award enhances the reputation of UR, as well as inspires students, parents and the alumni.

## **2. Criteria**

- 2.1. The following persons shall be eligible:
  - a. Prominent in a career in: a field of scholarship, private or public service, performing arts, culture, sports, religion, law and literature
  - b. Extraordinary contributors to social transformation, nationally or internationally
- 2.2. The following persons shall not be eligible:
  - a. Serving UR staff and their family members.
  - b. Serving members of the Board
  - c. Serving politicians or candidates for elected public office
- 2.3. Successful nominees must:
  - a. Be living at the time of the nomination.
  - b. Be present at the graduation ceremony to be conferred with the degree. Posthumous honorary degrees shall be conferred only in the case when the nominee passes away after accepting the nomination
  - c. Address the congregation at the conferring graduation ceremony

## **3. Process for the nomination and selection**

- 3.1. All members of the university community, including students and alumni and alumnae
- 3.2. A call for nominations with an official nomination form shall be issued by the Office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Research and posted on the University website
- 3.3. Nomination forms shall be submitted with the following documents: Contact details of the nominee and an abbreviated CV; a brief description of nominee's achievements, including contributions to society, culture, scholarship, arts and science; and a concise statement about the nominee's extraordinary contribution deserving of the honorary degree.
- 3.4. The nominations shall be considered by the University Senate Awards Committee comprising of: The Vice Chancellor (Chair), Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs and Research, College Principals, 1 Senate Representative, 1 Student Representative and 1 Board Representative. All communication with the nominee shall be conducted through the office of the DVC Academic Affairs and Research.

- 3.5. The Committee shall forward its recommended names of the nominees to the Board of Governors for its consideration and approval.
- 3.6. The nomination and selection process shall remain confidential until after the approval by the Board of Governors and the nominee has accepted in writing.
- 3.7. Approved candidates shall remain active for three years.

#### **4. Process for the award**

- 4.1. The Honorary Doctorate degree shall be conferred by the University Chancellor at a graduation ceremony of the relevant disciplines in which the award is given
- 4.2. Except under special circumstances, there shall be no more than one Honorary Doctorate degree per graduation.
- 4.3. The honorary graduand shall be required to address the congregation after being conferred with the Honorary Doctorate degree
- 4.4. The University is under no obligation to award an Honorary Doctorate degree in any year
- 4.5. The University has right to withdraw the award if the recipient be considered to be engaging in activities that are not in conformity with the core values of the institution.

#### **5. Proposed Honorary Doctorate degrees**

- 5.1. Doctor of Arts (DArts): For design, sports, visual and performing arts
- 5.2. Doctor of Humanities (DHum): For service to society and scholarship in the humanities and social sciences
- 5.3. Doctor of Laws (LLD): For law, public policy, public service, business and entrepreneurship
- 5.4. Doctor of Science (DSci): For science, medicine, agriculture, engineering and technology

#### **6. Postnominal title**

Recipients of the Award shall use the post nominals titles e.g. 'LLD Hon University of Rwanda'.

*James McWha*  
**Prof. James McWha**  
**Vice-Chancellor**

