

# PL- ACADEMIC-021: Honorary Doctorate Policy

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|  | <b>Reviewed by FS on:</b>                        |
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|  | <b>Approved by President on: 21 October 2014</b> |

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## Source / Authority

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This policy and accompanying procedures were developed by the Office of the Vice President and Chief Academic Officer and endorsed by the University President.

The Office of the Vice President and Chief Academic Officer is responsible for overseeing and monitoring the implementation of this policy and accompanying procedures.

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## Purpose

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The purpose of this policy is to establish and implement policy and procedures to confer the University's highest honor "Honorary Doctorate of Philosophy" to individuals of significant impact and prominence.

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## Who Should Know This Policy

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- President
- Vice President
- Legal Advisor
- Dean
- Director / Departmental Head
- Faculty
- Human Resources
- Graduate Students
- Accounting/ Finance Personnel
- Student
- All Employees
- Legal Office

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## Policy Description

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Qatar University's core educational values are best exemplified by embracing renowned achievements of individuals of extraordinary impact to the nation, the region and the world. The University's highest honor "Honorary Doctorate of Philosophy" is conferred on individuals with extraordinary contribution to the nation, the region and the world.

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## Rationale

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Qatar University remains dedicated to being recognized for high-quality education and research and for being a leader of economic and social development. Honoring extraordinary contributions to a specific field or society in general is one way in which the university can demonstrate its commitment to realizing this vision. Recipients of an Honorary Doctorate serve as important role models for students, faculty, and the broader QU community. Furthermore, the accomplishments and/or contributions that are honored reflect the University's values and priorities.

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## Eligibility and Application Process

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- An Honorary Doctorate is a recognition granted by the university to recipients without completion of degree requirements. It is awarded on a selective basis to distinguished individuals who merit special recognition for outstanding achievement or leadership in a field consistent with the University Values. Such distinction may be in areas as research, scholarship, education, artistic creation, social activism, human rights, innovation or invention beneficial to society, and humanitarian outreach;
- Colleges and other University Academic Administrators may nominate an individual for an Honorary Doctorate according to the nomination procedure described in this policy;
- The Honorary Doctorate will be "Honorary Doctorate of Philosophy";
- Only the Board of Regents may authorize the award of an honorary degree;
- There is no obligation to confer the Honorary Doctorate in any particular year;
- The candidate should have demonstrated extraordinary achievement over an entire career;
- Philanthropy cannot be the sole or main criterion for awarding an honorary degree, but may be taken into account as a factor to be considered by the Honorary Degree Committee in a determination to award an honorary degree;
- Current employees of the university are not eligible, but honorary degrees may be awarded to former employees who meet the criteria;
- No degree will be conferred in absenteeism;

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## Nomination Procedure

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- The nomination procedure should coincide with the Board of Regents regularly scheduled meetings;
- All nominations for an Honorary Degree should be submitted to the Office of the Vice President and Chief Academic Officer by November 1;

- Nominations should be made in a one- to-two-page statement or letter outlining the nominee's achievements and must be accompanied by letters of support. Letters of support should be limited to two pages;

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### **Review Procedure**

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- The Vice President and Chief Academic Officer appoints faculty and/or administrators to serve on the Honorary Degree Committee;
- The Honorary Degree Committee evaluates nominations and assesses the extent to which a candidate's overall career has complemented the University's mission nationally, regionally, and/or internationally, and recommends candidates to the VPCAO;
- The Vice President and Chief Academic Officer selects the top candidates for recommendation to the President;
- The University President recommends candidates to the Board of Regents for final approval;
- The nomination and review procedure should remain confidential

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### **Conferment of Honorary Doctorates**

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- Upon the Board of Regents approval, the President or designee informs the candidate of the intent to honor his/her career with an Honorary Doctorate;
- If a candidate accepts the award, the President or designee will coordinate the award ceremony;
- If a candidate is unable to attend the award ceremony, the candidate will remain eligible to receive the award for two years;