Nominations for Honorary Degrees, Fellowships and the Queen Mary Medal:
Guidance and Eligibility Criteria

Please read the following information before completing the relevant nomination form.

Queen Mary awards the following honours to distinguished persons:

- Honorary degrees
- Fellowships
- Queen Mary Medal

Honorary awards are an opportunity to celebrate existing, and to develop new relationships with notable individuals in the local community, nationally and internationally.

Those who receive Honorary Degrees and Fellowships should exemplify, in some way, Queen Mary’s values. The reputation and profile of Honorary Graduates and Fellows should resonate with those of QMUL and provide an inspiring example, especially to graduating students.

Honorary Graduates and Fellows will collectively reflect QMUL’s local, regional, national and international standing.

Honorary Graduates and Fellows are ambassadors of QMUL, thereby contributing to the achievement of our mission.

**Honorary Degrees**

The categories of persons who might normally be considered for the award of Honorary Degrees include:

i. Former students of Queen Mary who have risen to the heights of their chosen career or field of service;

ii. Those who have given distinguished service or brought distinction to Queen Mary, the communities within which the campuses of Queen Mary reside, or wider London;

iii. Distinguished scholars or other persons of national and/or international standing.

While it is expected that most Honorary Graduates will fall into one or more of these criteria, they are not exclusive. Exceptional cases will be considered in respect of outstanding individuals whose association in name with Queen Mary will be beneficial.

A demonstrable personal connection with Queen Mary and/or its local communities is encouraged, however, nominations will be considered where there is the potential to build a valuable relationship.

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 QMUL. 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 QMUL are conferred on persons of distinction or persons who have, in the opinion of Council and Senate, rendered significant service to QMUL or to the community, or with a demonstrable connection or affiliation to QMUL. A Fellowship will not be conferred on a person currently employed by QMUL or a member of Council.

**Queen Mary Medal**

The Queen Mary Medal may be awarded on or following retirement to any employee of QMUL, who in the opinion of Council has made an exceptional, sustained contribution to QMUL. 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 QMUL’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 A17: Fellows of QMUL

1. The Council may elect as Fellows of QMUL persons of distinction or persons who have in the opinion of the Council rendered significant service to QMUL or to the community, or with a demonstrable connection to or affiliation with QMUL. On the appointed day, Fellows and Honorary Fellows of the former Colleges shall become Fellows of QMUL. With effect from the date of coming into force of the Queen Mary and Westfield College Act 1995, all existing Fellows of QMUL became Honorary Fellows of QMUL.

2. A Fellowship may not be conferred on a person currently employed by QMUL or member of Council.

3. All Fellowships will normally be conferred by the Chairman of Council. In the absence of the Chairman of Council, Fellowships will be conferred by the Vice-Chairman of Council.

4. A proposal to confer a Fellowship will be made by the Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee. The proposal will be considered by the Senate and approved by the Council.

5. The revocation of a Fellowship will be recommended by the Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee, considered by the Senate and approved by the Council in cases where the Fellow’s behaviour and/or views expressed are deemed to be inconsistent with QMUL values or to bring QMUL into disrepute. Concerns shall be raised with the Chairman or the Secretary to Council and the Fellow will be invited to comment on the reasons for the proposed withdrawal of the Fellowship before a decision is taken.

Ordinance A18: Honorary Degrees

1. QMUL may confer honorary degrees.

2. The honorary degrees that may be awarded are outlined in Ordinance A16 1.7

3. An honorary degree will not normally be conferred on a serving Chairman of the governing body of a College, or a person currently employed by QMUL.

4. An honorary degree will not normally be conferred on a ‘serving politician’, including:
   1.1 Ministers of the Crown;
   1.2 Members of the House of Commons;
   1.3 front bench members of the House of Lords;
   1.4 other leading active members of a political party; and
   1.5 persons in similar positions in other countries.

However, honorary degrees may be awarded to:
   1.6 back-bench members of the House of Lords, even if affiliated to a political party;
   1.7 a person retired from high Ministerial office, who is unlikely to hold a Cabinet office position again even if they remain a Member of Parliament; and
1.8 serving Heads of State.

5. 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 QMUL.

6. An honorary degree will not, save in exceptional circumstances, be conferred *in absentia*.

7. Where the Council has formally resolved to confer an honorary degree on a person, and the death of that person occurs before the conferment takes place, the honorary degree will be deemed to have been conferred, the date of the conferment being deemed to be the day preceding the date of death.

8. All honorary degrees will normally be conferred by the President and Principal. In the absence of the President and Principal, honorary degrees will be conferred by the Vice-Principal.

9. A proposal to confer an honorary degree will be made by the Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee. The proposal will be considered by the Senate and approved by the Council.

10. The revocation of an honorary degree will be recommended by the Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee, considered by the Senate and decided by the Council in cases where the holder’s behaviour and/or views expressed are deemed to be inconsistent with QMUL values or to bring QMUL into disrepute. Concerns shall be raised with the Chairman or the Secretary to Council and the holder will be invited to comment on the reasons for the proposed withdrawal of the degree before a decision is taken.

**Ordinance A19: Queen Mary Medal**

1. The Council may resolve to issue a Queen Mary Medal on or following retirement to any employee of QMUL, who in its opinion has made an exceptional sustained contribution to QMUL. For this purpose, the 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 concerned.

2. A proposal to issue a Queen Mary Medal will be made by the Honorary Degrees and Fellowships Committee. The proposal will be considered by the Senate and approved by the Council.

3. All Queen Mary Medals will normally be issued by the Chairman of Council. In the absence of the Chairman of Council, Queen Mary Medals will be conferred by the Vice-Chairman of Council.