

# Honorary Degrees Policy and Guidelines

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MOI UNIVERSITY  
PRESS 

# **Honorary Degrees Policy and Guidelines**



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# Moi University

## MU/OP/DVC(R&E)/055-Procedure for Developing of Quality University Policies

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## Foreword

This policy is an outcome of an intensive consultative process, facilitated by strong team of staff of the University. We acknowledge the support given by University Council, Senate and University Management. We also appreciate the leadership of the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Richard K. Mibey who facilitated the production of this policy. The Moi University community is recognized for their input and active participation during the process. Special gratitude goes to all persons who contributed in many ways and ensured that this policy document was completed. Finally, appreciations go to the members of the committee who contributed to the production of the document.

The policy will guide the process and procedure of identifying the honorees for the award of Moi University honorary degrees.



**PROF. B. E. L. WISHITEMI**  
**DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR,**  
**RESEARCH AND EXTENSION**

## Executive Summary

The award of Moi University honorary degrees is based on the individual contribution to the university or to the wellbeing of society and humanity in general. The degrees are awarded during the Moi University graduation ceremonies. The honorees are members of national and international community, who are partners and collaborators in all spheres of academia.

The process of identification of the honorees starts from the school boards, senate committee and council. A citation of the honoree is published and an honorary degree is awarded. The Academic Affairs committee of Senate is responsible for all the logistical arrangements for the award.



## Defination of Terms

Academic Affairs Committee	Means Senate committee responsible for all academic matters in terms of teaching, award of honorary degrees, inaugural and public lectures.
Academic Staff	Means professors, Associate Professors, Senior Lecturers, Lecturers, Assistant Lecturers and such other persons in the employment of the university engaged in teaching or research therein as council, acting in accordance with the recommendation of senate, may from time to time grand the status of members of the University.
Chancellor	Means the Chancellor of the University referred to in the section 9 of the Act
Convocation	Means the Convocation of the University establishment under section 15 of the Act
Dean	Means the head of a school
Deputy Vice Chancellor	Means the Deputy Vice Chancellor the University appointed under section 10(3) of the Act.
Honorary Degree	Means an academic degree for which a university (or other degree-awarding institution) has waived the usual requirements (such as matriculation, residence, study and the passing of examinations).
University Council	Means the executive body of a university's governance system,

University Staff Means those persons in the employment of University who are either members of the academic or non teaching staff

Vice Chancellor Means the Chief Executive Officer of the University appointed under section 10 of the Act

## List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

AAC	Academic Affairs Committee
D.Sc.	Doctor of Science
D.Ed.	Doctor of Education
D.Litt.	Doctor of Literature
DVC, R&E	Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research & Extension
HDS	Honorary Degree Sub-Committee
LL.D	Doctor of Laws
M.D	Doctor of Medicine
VC	Vice Chancellor

## 1.0 Introduction

### 1.1 Historical Perspective

The practice of awarding honorary degrees dates back to the middle ages when universities were persuaded to grant exemption from some or all of the usual statutory requirements for award of a regular degree. Moi University established by an Act of parliament in 1984 as a second public University in Kenya is a center of excellence in science and technology. Since its establishment, Moi University has grown rapidly increasing its new academic programmes and the development of new infrastructure. Further, the University Senate and Council in the year 1985 agreed to introduce the award of honorary degrees to prominent leaders, professionals, research scientists, academicians and business people from national and international sphere. These awards serve as a link to internal and external business relationship, partnership and collaboration in all aspects of academic research and business relationship and collaboration in all aspects of academic, research and business programmes of the university. The award of the degrees is based on the premise that teaching and learning, especially university level, does not only take place in the classroom but also in other fora. This therefore necessitates the award of honorary degree annually that is conferred in the graduation in the academic calendar of the university.

The University awarded its first honorary degree D. Litt.(honoris *Causa*), conferred “for the sake of honor” to the first Chancellor who is retired President Hon. Daniel T. arap Moi, CGH. in December 1985.

### 1.2 Vision

To be the University of choice in nurturing innovation and talent in science, technology and development.

### 1.3 Mission

To preserve, create and disseminate knowledge and conserve and develop scientific, technological, and cultural heritage through quality and relevant teaching and research; to create a conducive working and learning environment, and to work with the government and the private sector for the betterment of society.

## 1.4 Core Values

- i. Promotion and defence of intellectual and academic freedom, scholarship and relentless search for truth.
- ii. Fostering teamwork, collaboration, creativity and innovation, effective communication, tolerance, perseverance, and a culture of peace.
- iii. Embracing excellence, openness, consultation and consensus building, efficiency and effectiveness.
- iv. Practicing professionalism, meritocracy, exemplary leadership, equality, integrity and social justice.
- v. Maintaining a sense of self-respect, discipline, responsibility, institutional loyalty and national patriotism.
- vi. Continuous improvement of services in order to remain competitive.

## 1.5 Objectives

- i. To pursue excellence in teaching, research and outreach
- ii. To produce well informed, practical, and self-reliant graduates capable of contributing to development in rural and urban areas.
- iii. To produce well informed, practical, and self-reliant graduates capable of contributing to development in rural and urban areas.
- iv. To offer expertise in area of national development.
- v. To promote science and technology for national development.
- vi. To participate fully in the promotion of culture and develop individuals who are responsive to the needs and well being of others.
- vii. To offer a range of opportunities for training through continuing education.
- viii. To secure and manage resources to achieve the above goals efficiently.

## 1.6 Quality Policy Statements

Moi University is committed to providing quality education and services that meet the needs of its customers and stakeholders through quality and relevant teaching, research and community service and outreach. The University is committed to a quality work and learning environment that is grounded in intellectual and academic freedom, teamwork, quest for excellence, professionalism, discipline and continuous improvement of its products (programmes/activities) and services so as to achieve client/customer satisfaction. To be able to realise this commitment, the University will continually review its products (programmes/activities) and services to conform to the Quality Management Systems based on the ISO 9001 – 2008 Standards.

## 1.7 Definition of Honorary Degree

An honorary degree or a degree *honoris causa* a Latin word for ‘the sake of the honour’ is an academic degree for which a university has waived the usual requirements such as matriculation, residence, study and the passing of examinations. The degree itself is typically a doctorate or, less commonly, a masters degree, and may be awarded to someone who has no prior academic connection with the institution in question but have had other forms of association.

## 2.0 The Philosophy Behind Honorary Degrees

The award of honorary degrees of Moi University is on the basis of the individual contribution to the university or to the wellbeing of society in general. The degree document publication provides the awardee with an opportunity to present an overview of his contribution to knowledge and his perspective in area or field of specialization of fellow peers, students, and stakeholders. The awardees in their acceptance speech will give an overview of his development, status, and significance of contribution to the university and society over the years. Honorary degree therefore form part of the University’s knowledge contribution and general awareness on general contemporary issues of importance and interest to university community and society.

### **3.0 Organization as Per Statute XXIV**

- 3.1 A proposal to grant an honorary degree may be made by a member of Council, a member of Senate or a member of Academic Staff or the convocation and shall be communicated in writing to the Vice Chancellor.
- 3.2 Every such proposal shall be accompanied by a statement setting forth the degree recommended and the detailed grounds on which the recommendation is based.
- 3.3. (a) There shall be a joint Committee of Honorary degrees consisting of the Chairman of Council, the Vice Chancellor, Deputy Vice Chancellor, three members of the Senate appointed by Senate and two members of Council, appointed by Council who are not Senate representatives on Council.  
(b) The Vice Chancellor shall be Chairperson of this Committee.
- 3.4. In each case the Dean of the Faculty/School in which the degree is proposed to be conferred shall be consulted.
- 3.5. An honorary degree shall be awarded by the Chancellor presiding at the congregation which the honorary degree is being awarded and where the recipient is the presiding Chancellor, by the Vice Chancellor.

### **4.0 Membership of Honorary Degree Sub-Committee**

The chairman of Academic Affairs Committee who is the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research & Extension the Deans of the awarding schools shall be members of the Honorary Degree Sub-Committee. The other members of the relevant discipline from among the Academic Affairs Committee will be co-opted.

#### **4.1 The Selection Process of Awardees**

The committee shall forward the nomination papers to all schools in the University for the selection of the candidates. The Academic Affairs Committee:

- a) Shall call for names of nominees in February from schools and the general university community for those to be awarded honorary degrees in the year.
- b) The committee will meet in April of each year to receive proposals of the prospective candidates from the schools. The details of the deliberations by the school committee shall not be released out of respect for the nominee so as to ensure integrity of the process.
- c) Once the initial selection has been done within school departments the names of the candidates who meet the criteria shall be tabled in Academic Affairs Committee.
- d) After receiving the nominees, the Academic Affairs Committee will vet the names before approaching the proposed persons confidentially to know whether they want to accept the offer or not.
- e) Once the vetting process has been done at the committee level, the names shall be forwarded to Senate.
- f) After senate passes the names of the presented candidates the office of Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research and Extension shall forward two names to the relevant sub-committee of council for approval.

#### **4.2 Publication of the Biography of the Awardee**

The committee will prepare a biography booklet and degree certificate for the honoree in support of the degree award during the occasion.

#### **4.3 Persons for the Award of Honorary Degree**

The individuals to be honored with the degree will be those who have demonstrated extraordinary achievements in areas of research, scholarship, education, artistic creation, social activism, human rights, innovation or invention beneficial to society, and humanitarian outreach, or generally exemplary work to humanity that is easily recognizable by society.



#### 4.4 Those to be Awarded Honorary Degrees

The honorary degree will generally be awarded:

- a) To those with extraordinarily intellectual or artistic achievement in their own area of specialization and are nominated considering the diversity of Kenyan society. Moi University is not under any obligation to award an honorary doctorate in any year.
- b) To individuals who have not received honorary degrees from other institutions but are clearly meritorious candidates in all respects.
- c) To those who have given exemplary service to Moi University and to the wider society.
- d) To recognize eminent men and women who might serve as role models to the institution's student body as the degree honors the awardee and upholds the spirit of academic excellence of the institution.

#### 4.5 Those who do not qualify for the Award

The honorary degrees will generally not be awarded to any of the following:

- a) Current and retired Moi University staff.
- b) Any individual who has previously received an honorary degree from Moi University.
- c) Current members of Moi University Council.
- d) Anonymous candidates whose background is not known openly by the general public.
- e) As Senate may approve

#### 4.6 Facilitation of Honoree

The honoree while attending the occasion of the award of the degree will:

- a) Be reimbursed all the expenses related to road and/or air travel, daily subsistence allowance, accommodation, a token honoraria and local transport.
- b) Be hosted with his/her spouse to a graduation luncheon.

#### **4.7 Presentation of Honoree to the Chancellor**

The honoree shall be presented to the Chancellor for the award by the dean of the School from where the degree is being awarded. After the award, the honoree may normally be asked to address the graduation ceremony in a brief speech not exceeding five minutes.

### **5.0 Moi University Honorary Degrees**

The Moi University honorary degrees for award are:

- a) D. Litt (Honorary Doctor of Literature)
- b) D.Sc. (Honorary Doctor of Science)
- c) M.D. (Honorary Doctor of Medicine)
- d) LL.D (Honorary Doctor of Laws)
- e) D.ed. (Honorary Doctor of Education)

#### **5.1 Time of Conferment of Honorary Degree**

The Moi University honorary degree awards shall normally be conferred at the time the University conducts its graduation ceremony. However, Senate with the approval of the Council may decide to confer the degree at any other time that it deems fit provided it is during a special university occasion. The normal procedure and regulations for conferment of University degrees shall apply.

#### **5.2 Privileges of Honorary Degree of Doctor of Philosophy**

Recipients of University honorary degrees shall be entitled to all other privileges enjoyed by University alumni and in addition shall:

- a) Attend graduation ceremony
- b) Use University library and other academic facilities free of charge
- c) Use the title of Doctor (Dr)