

Criteria for the appointment of University Fellows

1. Establishment

Article 10 of Statute 7 of the Education Act (CAP. 327), under the heading 'University Fellows', establishes that:

- 1.1 **Honorary Fellows** may be appointed by Council on the recommendation of Senate, *"where the University wants to confer such honour on deserving individuals"*.

The said Article also establishes that:

- 1.2 **Visiting Fellows** may be appointed by Council on the recommendation of Senate *"in the case of senior foreign or local scholars of professional rank or distinction"*;
- 1.3 **Senior Fellows**, *"in the case of retiring members of the academic staff at the grade of Professor to enable them to carry on with their research at the University"*; and
- 1.4 **Fellows**, *"in the case of retiring members of the academic staff at the grade of Associate Professor, Senior Lecturer and Lecturer, to enable them to carry on with their research at the University."*

2. Applicability

A person cannot be the beneficiary of more than one type of University Fellowship at any one time.

- 2.1 Honorary Fellowships shall not be conferred upon any person who already holds an Honorary Degree of the University of Malta.
- 2.2 Nominees are eligible for Fellowships and Senior Fellowships once they have retired from the University of Malta.
- 2.3 Visiting Fellowships shall not be conferred on nominees who are resident academics of the University of Malta or are employed with the University of Malta - other than on a visiting basis – at the time of their nomination.

3. Conditions of Eligibility

3.1 Honorary Fellowships may be awarded to any honourable individual:

who has given exceptional service to the University through the calibre and integrity of their work, and who has shown loyalty to the institution by committing time, effort and abilities to the fulfilment of its aims, mission and ideals; or
who has accomplished some exceptional feat or can be credited with outstanding exemplary behaviour and is thereby viewed as a role-model among peers or by society at large; or who shares the University's ideals to support academic excellence and preserve academic freedom and has chosen to support the University in the attainment of such ideals through donation of extraordinary material endowment for the long-term benefit of the University of Malta.

3.2 Visiting Fellowships may be awarded to any honourable senior foreign or local scholar of professional rank or distinction:

who has contributed significantly to the University in a professional capacity and is still in a position and willing to contribute to the University by donating academic or professional services to the fulfilment of its aims, mission and ideals; or

who has significantly enhanced and continues to support the University's international standing by assisting it with the establishment of strategic collaboration and partnerships with international counterparts; who has significantly enhanced and continues to support the University's link with Industry and civil society by assisting it with the establishment of strategic collaboration and joint projects; or

who by their very presence and outstanding scholarship continues to contribute in a significant way to help create within the University, and particularly among students, a milieu of scholarship, creativity, social responsibility, innovation, or entrepreneurship.

3.3 Senior Fellowships may be awarded to any retiring member of the academic staff at Professor Level:

who has gained international recognition as a scholar and peer in their field and has an outstanding track-record of research and publications; who wishes to carry on with their individual research beyond retirement age and wishes to continue to avail of the facilities of the University as approved; whose continued association with the University is of mutual benefit; and whose scholarship and publications will continue to enhance the local and international profile of the University.

Senior Fellows are expected to be among the most accomplished professors and senior researchers of the University, who prefer to retire and pursue their personal scholarship in their years of retirement rather than retain formal employment with the University with the teaching and administrative duties that this entails.

- 3.4 **Fellowships** may be awarded to any retiring member of the academic staff below the rank of Professor:

with a long and distinguished career at the University, during which time they have delivered an exemplary service to the same University and its local or wider community. Such services would include collegial support, mentorship, outreach and/or community engagement.

4. **Benefits**

- 4.1 **Honorary Fellows** are not entitled to any remuneration in this capacity but are entitled to attend any formal academic occasion with due recognition and to access University library facilities.
- 4.2 **Visiting Fellows** are not entitled to any remuneration in this capacity; they are entitled to use the University's facilities and resources in line with those made available to resident academics; they are entitled to attend any formal academic occasion with due recognition and to wear academic gown at such occasions; they may be allowed additional work resources on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the Rector depending on the nature of the work they conduct at University.
- 4.3 **Senior Fellows** are not entitled to any remuneration in this capacity; they are entitled to use the University's facilities and resources in line with those made available to resident academics; they are entitled to attend any formal academic occasion, to join the ranks of the most senior emeritus Professors in procession; and to wear academic gown at such occasions; they are entitled to work resources at the same level as Professors for as long as they continue to demonstrate sustained research activity and publication. They are free to pursue research in any field.
- 4.4 If **Fellows** engage in academic work and research, they may be entitled to work resources on a case-by-case basis, at the discretion of the Rector, and as long as they demonstrate sustained research activity and publication. These resources (payable against legitimate receipts) would be made available at the same level as those applicable to the academic rank of the fellows at the time of their retirement (e.g. Lecturer or Senior Lecturer or Associate Professor).

5. **Selection Committee**

The University Honours Committee, appointed by Senate and Council, shall be responsible for the selection of persons to be recommended to Senate in the first instance, and with the endorsement of Senate, to recommend to Council the conferment of University Fellowships.

6. Nominations Procedure

- 6.1 Nominations for the award of University Fellowships are to be submitted to the Rector in strict confidence by any single resident academic member of staff hereinafter referred to as the principal sponsor. The area or areas in which the nominee has excelled, or to which they have made a significant contribution, must be mentioned. A short paragraph should suffice.
- 6.2 The Rector will present the case to the Committee for its consideration. The Committee will meet to consider all nominations in June or July;
- 6.3 If the Selection Committee *prima facie* feel positively inclined towards the onward transmission of the request to Senate, the Selection Committee will request a formal proposal endorsed by the principal and a second sponsor. These should include a clear statement of the grounds on which the recommendation is based, a brief chronological account of the nominee's career, as well as an outline of the nominee's work, drawing particular attention to their contribution to the University or other achievements. At this stage the Committee may also request the endorsement of a broader community of peers.
- 6.4 If Senate endorses the nominations made, the Chair of the Committee should submit a Motion for the award of University Fellowships in the form of a written report which shall be made available to members of Council before the meeting at which it is to be presented for approval.

7. Confidentiality

- 7.1 Strict confidentiality should be maintained throughout the whole process until the offer has been accepted by the nominee.
- 7.2 The Committee reserves the right not to consider a proposal if strict confidentiality is breached, if the nominee is made aware of their nomination prior to a final decision being made by Council, or if undue external pressure is exerted on any member of the Committee during the selection process.
- 7.3 Should any nomination be turned down at any stage of the selection process, all members of Senate and Council are bound to retain confidentiality indefinitely.

Approved by Council on 4 July 2011 and amended on 15 April 2021, 14 July 2022 and 11 July 2024.v4