

## **Doctor of Science (D.Sc.) Definition**

In the UK, the degree of Doctor of Science is probably the Highest Doctorates, typically is conferred on a member of the university who has a proven record of internationally recognized scholarship. A candidate for the degree will usually be required to submit a selection of their publications to the board of the appropriate faculty, which will decide if the candidate merits this accolade. The degree will only exceptionally be awarded to a scholar under the age of forty. The status of the degree has declined because it is not widely understood, but in former times the doctorate in science was regarded as a greater distinction than a professorial chair. The Doctor of Science may also be awarded as an honorary degree that is, given to individuals who have made extensive contributions to a particular field and not for specific academic accomplishments.

I heard of the D.Sc. when a colleague of mine who is a professor was awarded the degree by our university. I asked him, "You have already a PhD degree long time ago. What's the difference between this doctor degree and the PhD?" I was told then that the Doctor of Science is even greater than the professorship and is the highest doctorate one can get in UK, though it might have different meaning in other countries.

## **From Queen's**

### **Overview:**

In general, Honorary Degrees are awarded to those who have achieved distinction and/or given significant service in one or more of a number of broad constituencies, such as Business and Commerce; the Arts; Education; Medicine; Science; Technology; Public Service; Sport and Service to the Community. Whilst it would be advantageous for potential recipients to have a Northern Ireland/Queen's connection, this is not a prerequisite. Ideally, an award should not only reflect positively on recipients in relation to their personal achievements, but should also raise the profile of the University and, in particular, promote opportunities for the future development of strategic alliances. Nominations are, therefore, particularly encouraged in respect of figures of international standing and eminence.

## **Recent News from Queen's**

Broadcaster and naturalist Sir David Attenborough and gold-medal winning paralympian Michael McKillop are to receive an honorary degree from Queen's University later this year. They are among 16 people from the worlds of business, medicine, sport, academia, music and the arts being honoured by the University.

Sir David, whose landmark new series *Africa* is currently airing on the BBC, will be recognised for services to science and broadcasting. He will be joined by local film director and the only Northern Ireland winner of an Oscar, Terry George, who will receive an honorary degree for distinction in film and drama. He is best known for his Co Down film *The Shore* which won the Academy Award for Best Live Action Short Film in 2012.

Also being recognised from the arts will be the only woman to win the Man Booker Prize twice, writer Hilary Mantel (*Wolf Hall*, 2009 and *Bring Up the Bodies*, 2012), Dublin-born writer Colum McCann whose *Let the Great World Spin* novel became a best-seller on four continents and Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, one of the foremost composers of our time.

London 2012 has also had an influence on those selected for honorary degrees. Glengormley athlete Michael McKillop, who won two gold medals in last year's Paralympics, setting a new world record in the 800m T37, will be recognised for exceptional distinction in sport. Baroness Campbell, Chair of UK Sport, who was instrumental in developing a national funding strategy for key sports, many of which formed an integral part of the recent Olympics, will be recognised for exceptional services to sport.

Distinguished names from the fields of medicine and science being recognised include Robert Ingram, the former CEO of GlaxoSmithKline, and Professor Avadhesha Surolia, Director of India's National Institute of Immunology (NII) whose work has strongly influenced immunology research internationally. Professor Jim Swindall from Queen's world-leading Ionic Liquid Laboratories (QUILL) will be recognised for his exceptional contribution to science.

Local businessman and entrepreneur Ed Vernon will be honoured for exceptional services to business and commerce. He played a vital role in the economic development of Northern Ireland and leads the Asset Management Group of the Strategic Investment Board reporting to the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister.

Others to be honoured for good works in 2013 include: Dr Avila Kilmurray for her contribution to the community, Dr Len O'Hagan for services to business and commerce, Wejdan Abu El-Haija, the first female Dean of Engineering in Jordan, Professor David Hempton for outstanding services to history and divinity and Sir Ken Robinson, an internationally recognized leader in the development of education, creativity and innovation who is being recognised for exceptional services to education.

Queen's awards honorary degrees to individuals who have achieved high distinction or given significant service in one or more fields of public or professional life, and who serve as ambassadors for the University and Northern Ireland around the world.

The full list of honorary degrees to be awarded is as follows:

- Sir David Attenborough, DSc for contribution to the science and broadcasting
- Terry George, DUniv for distinction in Film and Drama
- Hilary Mantel CBE, DLit for outstanding distinction in literature
- Colum McCann, DLit for outstanding distinction in literature
- Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, DLit(Mus) for exceptional services to Music
- Baroness Sue Campbell CBE, DSSc for exceptional services to sport
- Michael McKillop, DUniv for exceptional distinction in sport
- Robert Ingram, DMedSc for exceptional services to medicine and science
- Professor Avadhesh Surolia, DMedSc for services to science
- Professor Jim Swindall CBE, DSc for exceptional contribution to science
- Dr Wejdan Abu-Elhaija, DSc(Eng) for outstanding services to Engineering
- Dr Len O'Hagan CBE DL, DSc(Econ) for exceptional services to business and commerce
- Mr Ed Vernon, DSc(Econ) for exceptional services to business and commerce
- Sir Ken Robinson DSSc Social Sciences for exceptional services to education.

- Professor David Hempton, DLit for outstanding services to history and divinity
- Dr Avila Kilmurray, DSSc for exceptional contribution to the community