



Guidelines for the award of honorary doctorates

Type of document	Riktlinjer
Decided by	Fakultetsnämnden
Decision date	6 December 2023
Registration number	3578-1.1.2-2023
Validity	6 December 2023 – until further notice
Replaces document	Criteria for the award of an honorary doctorate at Södertörn University, 1377-1.1.2-2022
Responsible unit	University Support Services
Description	The guidelines have been revised to clarify the award criteria and registration routine after the decision is made

What is an honorary doctorate?

An honorary doctorate, *doctor honoris causa*, is an honorary degree that can be conferred upon an individual who has made significant contributions to the university, or its subjects, programmes or research environments, and has thereby promoted the university's research, education or collaboration activities, or contributed to its development in some other way.

Awarding an honorary doctoral degree is a way for Södertörn University to recognise the recipient's outstanding contributions to scholarship, science or culture, as well as to strengthen the university's vision, ethos, identity and societal role. The recipient of an honorary doctorate from Södertörn University may therefore be:

- an individual who has been awarded a doctoral degree and has made a considerable impact on the university's research, education or collaboration
- an individual who by virtue of other non-academic, leading qualifications and contributions, for example in the arts, culture, civic education, civil society, the public sector or business, has been important to and inspirational for the university's research, education or collaboration.

Criteria for the award of an honorary doctorate at Södertörn University

To be considered as a recipient of an honorary doctorate, nominees must:

- not have previously received a doctorate in the same field at another Swedish university
- not be employed at Södertörn University at the time of nomination
- not have a licentiate or doctoral degree from Södertörn University
- if named as a recipient, agree to attend the Commencement Ceremony on site or online, and to give an honorary lecture.

Evaluation criteria

When evaluating nominations, the greatest emphasis is placed on how and to what extent the individual

- substantiates and enhances the university's vision, ethos, identity and societal role
- has collaborated with Södertörn University
- and how well-motivated the nomination is, given the above criteria.

Other evaluation criteria:

- An honorary doctorate cannot be awarded as reciprocation for financial contributions or other gifts
- An honorary doctorate cannot be awarded posthumously
- Over time, the overall profile of recipients should reflect the diversity of Södertörn University's activities
- Over time, there must be an even gender balance among recipients

Nomination, announcement and conferment

Every year, university staff and the students' union are invited to nominate individuals to receive an honorary doctorate. The nomination must include a well-founded motivation letter of no more than one page, based on the above conditions. The decision to award an honorary doctorate is made by the Faculty Board.

Nominations are addressed solely to the members of the Faculty Board until 1) the Faculty Board has decided on the award 2) the intended recipient has accepted and 3) the decision is announced.

Honorary doctorates are conferred alongside other doctoral degrees at the university's Conferment Ceremony and recipients are thus part of the academic community at Södertörn University.

Registration

After a decision on the award of an honorary doctorate has been announced, the following documents must be registered:

- Excerpt from the minutes of the Faculty Board's decision to award the honorary doctorate
- Nomination of the recipient, including the motivation
- List of other nominees