



Part XLIII: Measures for the Establishment of Honorary Academic Titles

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Applicable Scope: Candidates for honorary academic titles; nominating bodies; the
Review Committee; and relevant administrative bodies.

Preface

The International Association of Private Universities and Colleges (IAPUC) is committed to advancing the development and quality of private higher education worldwide. To recognize distinguished individuals who have made exceptional contributions to private higher education, academic research, educational administration and public service, the Association has established a system of honorary academic titles. An IAPUC honorary academic title is among the Association's highest honors and represents its formal recognition of a recipient's exceptional achievement and eminent standing in the relevant field.

This system follows procedures commonly adopted by authoritative international academic organizations and applies the highest standard: awards shall remain unfilled rather than be granted to an unsuitable candidate, and only the most outstanding candidates shall be selected. An honorary academic title is not a degree earned through coursework or an academic thesis; it is an honorary recognition of lifetime achievement and exceptional contribution. Through this system, the Association seeks both to honor those who have devoted their lives to private higher education and to establish professional exemplars and sources of inspiration for the global private higher education community.

These Measures comprehensively govern the basis, eligibility criteria, selection procedures, review arrangements and conferment ceremonies for the two titles of Honorary Fellow and Honorary Doctor, ensuring that each conferment is impartial, authoritative and worthy of distinction.

Chapter I General Provisions

Article 1 Purpose and Basis

To recognize renowned scholars, distinguished administrators, sector leaders and eminent public figures who have made exceptional contributions to private higher education worldwide and related fields, the International Association of Private Universities and Colleges (IAPUC) establishes the titles "Honorary Fellow" and "Honorary Doctor" and adopts these *IAPUC Measures for the Establishment of Honorary Academic Titles*, hereinafter referred to as "these Measures."

These Measures are formulated in accordance with the recognition and honors provisions of the *Constitution of the International Association of Private Universities and Colleges* and form an important component of the Association's internal governance and honors framework.

Article 2 Nature of the Titles

The IAPUC Honorary Fellow and Honorary Doctor titles are the Association's highest honorary academic titles. They recognize lifetime achievement and exceptional contribution and are not academic degrees in the conventional sense. They do not alter a recipient's existing educational qualifications or academic status. A recipient shall not use an honorary title for admission, employment or another purpose requiring evidence of an earned academic degree, but may display it publicly and in a curriculum vitae to indicate honorary standing.

Article 3 Basic Principles

The review and conferment of honorary academic titles shall strictly observe the following principles:

Principle	Core Meaning
Excellence	A title shall be conferred only on a distinguished individual whose leading achievement in the relevant field is internationally recognized and who possesses broad influence and eminent standing.
Selectivity	Annual quotas are strict ceilings. The number of titles actually conferred may be lower, and standards shall never be reduced merely to fill a quota.
Independence and Impartiality	An independent Review Committee shall lead the review process, free from administrative, commercial or other external pressure.
Absolute Confidentiality	All participants shall maintain strict confidentiality concerning information arising from nomination, preliminary consideration, review and deliberation.
Diversity and Inclusion	No candidate shall be restricted on grounds of nationality, race, sex, religion or political position. Full regard shall be given to the candidate's contribution and integrity in the relevant field.

Article 4 Types of Honorary Academic Title

These Measures establish the following two titles:

(1) **Honorary Fellow of IAPUC**

This title recognizes a distinguished individual who has made a pioneering contribution to private higher education administration, policy development or sector advancement and whose work has had a profound effect on the overall improvement of private higher education regionally or globally. Emphasis is placed on leadership, institutional innovation and social impact.

(2) Honorary Doctor of IAPUC

This title recognizes an exceptional scholar who has achieved world-class distinction in a specific or interdisciplinary field or made a foundational contribution to innovation in education and research. Emphasis is placed on scholarly depth, original thought and contribution to knowledge.

Chapter II Quotas and Disciplinary Distribution

Article 5 Quotas

(1) No more than one IAPUC Honorary Fellow may be selected in each disciplinary field in any year. A place shall remain vacant if no candidate is qualified.

(2) No more than one IAPUC Honorary Doctor may be selected in each disciplinary field in any year. A place shall remain vacant if no candidate is qualified.

The annual quotas for the two titles shall not be aggregated. Each discipline shall conduct its review independently, and a quota shall not be transferred between disciplines.

Article 6 Disciplinary Fields

The disciplinary fields used for review shall correspond to the coverage of the IQA Accreditation System and comprise the following nine broad categories:

- Business and Management;
- Engineering and Technology;
- Humanities and Social Sciences;
- Natural Sciences;
- Arts and Design;
- Medicine and Health Sciences;
- Education and Teacher Preparation;
- Law; and
- Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence.

A candidate's disciplinary field shall be the principal field of contribution identified at nomination. If no suitable candidate for a particular title and disciplinary field is available in a given year, that place shall remain vacant.

Chapter III Eligibility Criteria

Article 7 General Eligibility Criteria

Every candidate, irrespective of the title for which the candidate is nominated, must satisfy both of the following requirements concerning ethics and reputation:

- (1) **Exemplary character:** the candidate must possess an impeccable ethical reputation in the relevant sector and must not have been implicated in academic misconduct, financial scandal or any serious breach of professional ethics.
- (2) **Social responsibility:** the candidate's achievements and contributions must have produced substantial positive benefit for society or the relevant community and be consistent with IAPUC's core values.

Article 8 Specific Eligibility Criteria for Honorary Fellow

In addition to satisfying Article 7, a candidate for Honorary Fellow should, in principle, demonstrate internationally recognized distinction in at least three of the following dimensions:

- (1) **Strategic leadership:** service as a principal leader of a renowned private university, college or multinational education group, during which the institution achieved a qualitative transformation and its governance philosophy or educational model became widely emulated.
- (2) **Policy contribution:** a major and lasting influence on the formulation, reform or improvement of regional or global private higher education policy.
- (3) **Sector leadership:** a substantial enhancement of the standing and public reputation of private higher education through creating a sector alliance, establishing sector standards or leading sector-wide change.
- (4) **Social impact:** a historic contribution to expanding educational opportunity, advancing educational equity or serving society through education.

Article 9 Specific Eligibility Criteria for Honorary Doctor

In addition to satisfying Article 7, a candidate for Honorary Doctor should, in principle, demonstrate internationally recognized distinction in at least three of the following dimensions:

- (1) **Academic originality:** pioneering research in the candidate's discipline, with theories, discoveries or ideas recognized by peers as landmark contributions.

(2) **Educational innovation:** creation of a distinctive and influential teaching model, curriculum system or application of educational technology that substantially improves the quality of talent development.

(3) **Knowledge dissemination:** transformation of advanced knowledge into a powerful force for social progress and public understanding through textbooks, open courses, public scholarship or science communication.

(4) **Interdisciplinary contribution:** scholarship that successfully crosses disciplinary boundaries and demonstrates distinctive integrative and innovative value in addressing complex human challenges.

Article 10 Grounds for Exclusion

A person shall not be nominated or reviewed where the person:

(1) currently serves as a member of the IAPUC Board, a serving member of a Standing Committee or a principal member of staff of the IQA Office; such a person becomes eligible only after three full years have elapsed since leaving office;

(2) has been expelled or publicly censured by IAPUC or another international education organization for serious misconduct and the disciplinary record has not been rescinded following Board reconsideration; or

(3) has expressly declined nomination or the honor.

Chapter IV Nomination and Selection Procedures

Article 11 Right of Nomination

Self-nomination is not accepted for Honorary Fellow or Honorary Doctor. A candidate may be recommended only by one of the following authorized nominators:

(1) a member of the IAPUC Board, with each Director permitted to nominate no more than one person for each type of title per year;

(2) an IAPUC Institutional Member, whether a Full Member or Accredited Member, with each institution permitted to nominate no more than one person for each type of title per year; or

(3) an IAPUC Standing Committee, with each Committee permitted to nominate no more than one person for each type of title per year.

Article 12 Nomination Materials

A nomination must be submitted in sealed written form and include:

(1) an *Honorary Academic Title Nomination Form* signed by the nominator;

- (2) a detailed nomination letter explaining how the candidate satisfies the specific eligibility criteria for the title, supported by concrete examples and evidence;
- (3) the candidate's complete curriculum vitae, including a list of principal achievements;
- (4) three recommendation letters from independent international peers in different countries or regions, none of whom may have an evident conflict of interest with the candidate or nominator; and
- (5) the candidate's informed consent. If a candidate is nominated without prior knowledge, the Review Committee may continue its review without consent, but consent must be obtained before final conferment.

Article 13 Timetable

(1) Honorary Fellow selection timetable

- Nominations open: April 1 each year.
- Nomination deadline: July 31 each year, determined by postmark or electronic submission time.
- Preliminary eligibility review and supplementation of materials: August 1-31.
- Initial review: September 1-30.
- Final review and confirmation of recipients: October 1-15.
- Official announcement: by October 31.
- Conferment ceremony: July of the following year, during the IAPUC Annual Conference.

(2) Honorary Doctor selection timetable

- Nominations open: October 1 each year.
- Nomination deadline: March 31 of the following year.
- Preliminary eligibility review and supplementation of materials: April 1-30.
- Initial review: May 1-31.
- Final review and confirmation of recipients: June 1-15.
- Official announcement: by June 30.
- Conferment ceremony: March of the following year, during the IAPUC Spring Academic Summit.

Article 14 Preliminary Eligibility Review

The IAPUC Secretariat, being the IQA Office, is responsible for receiving nominations and conducting the preliminary eligibility review. This review is limited to formal compliance, including whether the nomination was submitted within the valid period, the materials are complete, the nominator is authorized and the candidate is subject to any evident ground for exclusion. If a nomination fails the review, the Secretariat shall notify the nominator in writing and state the reasons. Where materials must be supplemented, the nominator shall be allowed ten working days to rectify the submission.

Chapter V Review Mechanism

Article 15 Composition of the Review Committee

(1) IAPUC shall establish a dedicated Honorary Academic Titles Review Committee to conduct independent evaluation of candidates' scholarly and professional achievements.

(2) The Review Committee shall consist of seven members:

- the IAPUC President, serving as Chair but not voting except to cast the deciding vote in the event of a tie;
- two senior Directors from the IAPUC Board;
- three independent external scholars of eminent academic standing who are neither IAPUC employees nor Directors and who come from different continents; and
- one representative of the IAPUC Quality Accreditation Committee.

(3) Independent external scholars shall be appointed by the Board for a two-year term and may be reappointed once. The Review Committee's composition must provide broad disciplinary coverage and regional balance and shall be subject to strict conflict-of-interest recusal.

Article 16 Review Procedure

(1) **External written review:** according to the candidate's disciplinary field, the Review Committee shall randomly select three to five peers from its standing pool of external experts to conduct written reviews. The reports shall be anonymized and provided to the Review Committee for reference in its deliberations.

(2) **Initial-review meeting:** the Review Committee shall convene an online meeting to consider the nomination materials and external reviews. Each candidate shall be discussed fully and classified as "Recommended to Pass Initial Review," "Additional Materials Recommended" or "Conferment Not Recommended." An initial-review result requires approval by a two-thirds majority of members present.

(3) **Final-review meeting:** for candidates who pass initial review, the Review Committee shall hold an in-person or synchronous remote final-review meeting. It shall examine in depth each candidate's excellence and distinctiveness and the enduring impact of the candidate's contribution. The final decision shall be taken by secret ballot.

(4) **Final-vote threshold:** a recommendation to confer a title requires at least six affirmative votes. The review of each candidate must be recorded separately.

Article 17 Final Approval by the Board

The Review Committee shall submit its proposed list of recipients and relevant review reports to the IAPUC Board. The Board shall conduct a procedural review to determine whether the Review Committee exceeded its authority or whether an undisclosed serious conflict of interest or procedural violation occurred. Without sufficient grounds, the Board shall not overturn the Review Committee's academic judgment. The list may be announced publicly only after formal Board approval.

Chapter VI Conferment and Privileges

Article 18 Conferment Ceremony

(1) Honorary Fellow and Honorary Doctor titles must be conferred at a formal Association ceremony. A title shall not be conferred by mail or accepted by another person, except where the Board grants special permission due to force majeure.

(2) At the ceremony, each recipient shall:

- receive an honorary academic title certificate jointly signed by the IAPUC President and Secretary-General;
- wear specially designed honorary robes established under the IAPUC Visual Identity System;
- receive the honorary academic title insignia; and
- be entitled to use the applicable post-nominal designation: "Hon.F.IAPUC" for Honorary Fellow of IAPUC or "Hon.D.IAPUC" for Honorary Doctor of IAPUC. The designation indicates honorary status only and shall not be combined with or substituted for an academic post-nominal recognized under any national qualification or degree system.

Article 19 Honorary Privileges

(1) An IAPUC Honorary Fellow or Honorary Doctor shall receive the Association's highest level of courtesy for life, including guest-of-honor status at all public Association events.

(2) The recipient's name and contribution shall be permanently recorded on the IAPUC Wall of Honor and displayed on a continuing basis in the honors register on the Association's official website.

(3) A recipient may use the title "Honorary Fellow of IAPUC" or "Honorary Doctor of IAPUC" in publications, curricula vitae and public materials, subject to the post-nominal requirements in Article 18. The title shall not be used in commercial advertising in a manner that misleads the public into believing that IAPUC endorses a product or service.

Chapter VII Oversight, Appeals and Action

Article 20 Integrity Oversight

IAPUC shall exercise lifelong ethical and reputational oversight of recipients. The Association may initiate revocation where it is subsequently established that a recipient deliberately falsified nomination materials, or where, after receiving the title, a recipient commits serious conduct contrary to the Association's core values, gravely harms the public interest or incurs criminal liability.

Article 21 Revocation Procedure

Revocation must be proposed by the Board or jointly by at least one-third of all voting Directors. The Honorary Academic Titles Review Committee shall investigate, verify the facts and conduct a hearing. A revocation resolution requires approval by a two-thirds majority of the entire Board, and the person concerned must be allowed to present a written or oral defense before the final resolution. The revocation decision is final.

Article 22 Appeals

A candidate or recipient who objects to a serious procedural injustice in the review or revocation process may appeal to the Appeals and Arbitration Committee under the *IQA Accreditation Appeals, Complaints and Dispute Resolution Measures*.

Chapter VIII Supplementary Provisions

Article 23 Relationship with Other Regulatory Documents

These Measures align with the recognition function established in the *Constitution of the International Association of Private Universities and Colleges*. The confidentiality rules governing individual reviews shall also comply with the fundamental principles of the *IAPUC-IQA Academic Ethics and Integrity Standards*.

Article 24 Interpretation and Revision

(1) The IAPUC Board of Directors is responsible for interpreting these Measures.

(2) Any revision to these Measures requires approval by a two-thirds majority of the Board after consultation with the Honorary Academic Titles Review Committee.

Article 25 Effective Date and Transition

These Measures shall formally take effect on the date of approval by the IAPUC Board of Directors. The Board shall separately announce the opening date for nominations in the first review year.

Document Approval

Role	Name / Position	Date
Prepared by	IAPUC Board Working Group on Honorary Academic Titles	May 2026
Reviewed by	IAPUC Board of Directors	Pending
Approved by	IAPUC Board of Directors	Pending

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