



BIMM
INSTITUTE



INSTITUTE FOR
CONTEMPORARY
THEATRE



PERFORMERS
COLLEGE



SCREEN AND
FILM SCHOOL

Honorary Awards Scheme



Last approved: December 2021

Approved by: Academic Board

Next review due: December 2025



1. Introduction

- 1.1. In accordance with the Institute's [Academic Framework](#), the Academic Board delegates to the Honorary Awards Committee (HAC) the authority to approve persons for conferment of Honorary Degrees and Fellowships, in line with the criteria laid out below.
- 1.2. There are two different types of Honorary Awards available:
 - (i) Honorary Degrees.
 - (ii) BIMM Institute Fellowships.
- 1.3. The title of any Master's degree awarded will be agreed by the HAC but will be an **Hon MA** award.
- 1.4. The title of any Fellowship awarded will be **Fellow of BIMM Institute (FBIMMI)**.
- 1.5. Proposals to confer an award not listed above will be subject to the approval of Academic Board.

2. General Requirements

- 2.1. The following general requirements must be considered for all types of Honorary Awards:
 - (i) Honorary Awards will be conferred on persons of distinction in the arts and creative industries who will enhance the reputation of the Institute and strengthen its mission.
 - (ii) Honorary Awards will be conferred on persons present at an appropriate conferment ceremony. It is not possible for an Honorary Award to be conferred *in absentia*.
 - (iii) Honorary Awards may not be conferred on persons who are employed by the Institute at the time of conferment. Current staff, students and external members of Institute committees will not be eligible while in these roles.
 - (iv) A reasonable test of a candidate's suitability for any Honorary Award should be the 'goodness of fit' of the candidate with the community of honorary graduates already created by the Institute.
 - (v) An Honorary Award should not be read as reciprocating a gift or political intervention on behalf of the Institute.
 - (vi) In making awards to people in political life, the Institute should seek to avoid endorsing individual political candidature or raising suspicion of eliciting favour with any party or person.

3. Honorary Degree Criteria & Requirements

- 3.1. Honorary Degrees will be awarded to those who:
 - (i) Have achieved academic distinction or held major leadership roles nationally or internationally in the disciplines, areas of business and professions that BIMM Institute serves.
 - (ii) Are considered to be appropriate role models for our students and whose work corresponds with the values of the Institute.



- (iii) Have a local connection with the Institute (not essential, but the award must be of benefit to the Institute).
- (iv) Have a prior or planned connection with BIMM Institute's activities.
- (v) Have an affinity with disciplines studied at BIMM Institute.

4. BIMM Institute Fellowship Criteria & Requirements

- 4.1. BIMM Institute Fellowships may be conferred on persons whose outstanding work or actions have contributed significantly (whether by benefaction, achievement or service) in furthering the work or interests of BIMM Institute.
- 4.2. They may be conferred on persons external to BIMM Institute or ex-members of staff who have in the past made, or continue to make, a significant contribution to the student experience and standing of BIMM Institute.

5. Authority to Rescind Honorary Awards

- 5.1. Under exceptional circumstances, the HAC has the authority to rescind an Honorary Award. For example, where the activities of a recipient have brought, or have the potential to bring, the Institute into disrepute. Where any such cases are brought to the attention of the Committee, they will be considered by members at the earliest available opportunity in order to minimise the potential for reputational damage.

6. Procedure for Nominations

- 6.1. Any current member of staff or student of the Institute may nominate another person for an Honorary Award.
- 6.2. All nominations must be made via the online nomination form available [here](#).
- 6.3. Nominations may be submitted throughout the academic year, but the deadline for consideration at the HAC summer meeting will be 15th May each year.
- 6.4. All nominations must be treated as confidential until the HAC Chair confirms they can be released.
- 6.5. Those making nominations should not approach the nominee. When the nomination is confirmed, the HAC Chair will make the formal invitation and all communications will be through them.
- 6.6. The HAC will meet in confidential session, normally once a year, to consider nominations and approve awards according to the criteria stated above.
- 6.7. The Institute is committed to the achievement of equal opportunities and encourages diversity, so the HAC welcomes nominations in respect of individuals from a wide variety of backgrounds.
- 6.8. Although the minutes of the HAC should remain confidential, the Chair will submit an annual report of its business to the Academic Board.
- 6.9. A list of all honorands will be maintained on the Institute website.



7. Conferment of Nominees

- 7.1. Once the HAC has met and considered all candidates, the HAC Chair will invite the approved nominees to attend a ceremony for the conferment of awards.
- 7.2. Nominees must attend a ceremony for the award to be conferred; it may not be conferred *in absentia*.
- 7.3. If a nominee wishes to accept but is unable to attend the next ceremony, the HAC Chair may either defer the conferment until the following year or withdraw the invitation.
- 7.4. The date of the conferment shall be the date of the ceremony.
- 7.5. The HAC Chair will confirm the approved nominations to Academic Board at its meeting in September and will subsequently report these to the BIMM Limited Board.