

Senate Regulation 13: Withdrawal of degrees , awards and distinctions

1. Under the [Supplemental Charter](#), the University is empowered to confer and withdraw degrees, awards and distinctions. This responsibility is delegated to Senate under [Council Ordinance 9](#).
2. References to 'award' in this Regulation include all degrees and other academic awards conferred, as well as distinctions, prizes and medals awarded in recognition of academic or other achievements.
3. This Regulation sets out the procedure which will normally be followed where the University is concerned that there may be good cause to consider the withdrawal of an award which has been conferred onto an alumnus, whether that person is a current or former student or staff member of the University. It does not apply to Honorary Degrees and Titles conferred by Council; nor does it apply where a previous award is withdrawn prior to the conferral of a subsequent award being conferred, or where an award has been conferred through an administrative error.
4. This Regulation does not include the process by which the University may determine not to recommend a current or former student for an award they may normally be entitled to, or to withdraw a recommendation for an award before its conferral. These matters will normally be considered under [Senate Regulation 6](#), [Senate Regulation 14](#) or Council [Ordinance 18](#). The University may additionally implement other Regulations and Procedures, as appropriate, including [Statute 2](#) where the matter relates to a member of staff.
5. References in this Regulation to specific University staff will include their nominees.
6. Under this Regulation, what may constitute 'good cause' will be at the discretion of the decision makers. It may include, but is not limited to: serious misconduct (including academic, research or professional misconduct committed during the period of registration leading to the award); fraud or falsification of documentation or misrepresentation committed before, during or after the period of registration for the award; or causing severe damage or the risk of severe damage to the University's interests and/or its reputation. This should normally be relevant to, or substantially connected to, the award in question.
7. Under this Regulation, when considering whether a concern is substantiated, the decision makers will use the balance of probabilities test.
8. Neither the alumnus nor the University will normally be represented or supported by a legal practitioner in any meeting or Panel held to consider the concern raised.
9. In accordance with the Equality Act, the University will consider any reasonable adjustments to this Regulation which may be required to support the alumnus. The University is also mindful of its legal obligations under the Data Protection Act, and will ensure that personal information is processed fairly and lawfully, and that information will only be disclosed where necessary. This may include to staff members for consideration of the concern, and to professional, regulatory or statutory bodies.

10. No action will be taken under this Regulation to withdraw an award unless reasonable attempts have been made to inform the alumnus of the concern raised and to allow them to present their case to the University.

11. Where there are concerns that there may be cause to consider the withdrawal of an award, these should be reported and investigated in accordance with the [Procedure for the Withdrawal for Degrees, Awards and Distinctions](#). This Procedure also sets out information on the right of appealing any such decisions.