

Oversight Group for Honorary Degrees (OGHD)

1. The Standing, Strategic Planning and Governance Committee will establish a group for Honorary Degrees (OGHD), which shall be charged with working with the President to agree a set of proposed candidates for honorary degrees. The Group will be chaired by the President and is coterminous with Údarás na hOllscoile. The composition is:
 - 2 *ex officio*:
 - President (Chair)
 - Deputy President & Registrar
 - 2 external members from Údarás na hOllscoile
 - 2 members from Academic Council, including the SU President or nominee
 - 1 member co-opted by the President from either of the constituencies: Údarás na hOllscoile **or** Academic Council

The current membership of the Oversight Group for Honorary Degrees:

- President, Professor David Burn (*ex officio*) (*Chair*)
 - Interim Deputy President & Registrar, Professor Becky Whay (*ex officio*)
 - Dr Geraldine McGinty (*Udarás na hOllscoile external member*)
 - Mr John O'Donnell (*Udarás na hOllscoile external member*)
 - Professor Edward Jones (*Academic Council member*)
 - Dr Nessa Cronin (*Academic Council member*)
 - SU President, Ms Faye Ní Dhomhnaill (*Academic Council member/SU President*)
2. The Group's period of office will be coterminous with Údarás na hOllscoile.
 3. In the first instance, the President will, at least once a year, invite suggestions, on a strictly confidential basis, from members of Governing Authority, from all members of staff, from students, retired staff and alumni, as to potential candidates for honorary degrees.
 4. The President's proposals will be considered by the OGHD, and the Group will recommend a list of candidates to Údarás, on a strictly confidential basis.
 5. The list will be placed before Údarás na hOllscoile for approval. A two-thirds majority of those present at the Údarás meeting will be required for confirmation of the award to each candidate.
 6. In addition to candidates emerging from this process, the President may, from time to time as they see fit, directly propose appropriate candidates for approval by Údarás.
 7. It will be the exclusive responsibility of the President's Office to communicate, as appropriate, with those nominated for honorary degrees; such communication will normally take place only after the approval of the nomination by Údarás.

Additional Information:

Criteria governing the award of Honorary Degrees by University of Galway

- (i) The award of an honorary degree *honoris causa* by University of Galway is regarded as an honour of the highest level. Honorary degrees are awarded to persons meriting recognition at this level, and who, in turn, bring honour to University of Galway.
- (ii) The award should be for personal distinction in the candidate's own right or in their representative capacity.
- (iii) In the conferring of an honorary degree, the primary purpose is to honour distinction in scholarship and creativity. While nominations will be particularly welcomed of individuals with a connection to University of Galway and its hinterland, including our diaspora who have connections with and have contributed to our broader region, honorary degree nominations are broadly encouraged for individuals who have contributed significantly to academia, public life, and the betterment of society elsewhere in Ireland, or internationally.
- (iv) In addition to honouring scholarship and creativity, honorary degrees may be awarded to individuals who, whether in their personal or representative capacities, through their energies and service, have contributed significantly to public and cultural life, the betterment of society, and the interests of humanity, in Ireland, Europe or elsewhere, and who share University of Galway's values of excellence, respect, openness, sustainability and belonging. In general, honorary degrees for individuals who have distinguished themselves in political and public life will be awarded to them only after they have retired from office.
- (v) Recognising University of Galway's responsibility to our native Irish language, honorary degrees may be awarded to individuals who have transformed and promoted Gaeilge agus cultúr through their endeavours nationally and internationally.
- (vi) Honorary degrees may not be conferred *in absentia*.
- (vii) Honorary degrees will be conferred on individuals as part of the regular University of Galway conferring ceremonies. The list of honorary graduands will embrace gender and diversity balance and should be sufficiently varied in terms of the areas and themes in which the candidates have distinguished themselves and the degrees to be conferred.
- (viii) Criteria guiding principles and procedures for the award of honorary degrees by the NUI Senate and titles of degrees ([link](#)).

Grúpa Maoirseachta maidir le Céimeanna Oinigh

Téarmaí Tagartha

1. Bunóidh an Buaincheiste agus Coiste Pleanála Straitéisí grúpa do Chéimeanna Oinigh (OGHD) a mbeidh de dhualgas air oibriú i gcomhar leis an Uachtarán chun liosta aontaithe iarrthóirí molta do chéimeanna oinigh a dhréachtú. Beidh an tUachtarán ina chathaoirleach ar an nGrúpa:
 - 2 *ex officio*:
 - An tUachtarán (Cathaoirleach)
 - An tUachtarán Ionaid agus Meabhránaí
 - 2 bhall sheachtracha ó Údarás na hOllscoile
 - 2 bhall ón gComhairle Acadúil, a n-áireofar leis sin Uachtarán Chomhaltas na Mac Léinn nó a (h)ainmní
 - 1 bhall arna chomhthoghadh ag an Uachtarán ó cheachtar de na toghlaigh: Údarás na hOllscoile **nó** an Chomhairle Acadúil

Grúpa Maoirseachta maidir le Céimeanna Oinigh (2026):

- An tOllamh David Burn (An tUachtarán)
 - An tOllamh Becky Whay (An tUachtarán Ionaid agus Meabhránaí Eatramhach)
 - An Dr Geraldine McGinty (Údarás na hOllscoile)
 - An tUasal John O'Donnell (Údarás na hOllscoile)
 - An tOllamh Edward Jones (Comhairle Acadúil)
 - An Dr Nessa Cronin (Comhairle Acadúil)
 - Uachtarán, Comhaltas na Mac Léinn Ollscoil na Gaillimhe, Faye Ní Dhomhnaill
2. Is ionann téarma oifige an Ghrúpa agus téarma Údarás na hOllscoile.
 3. I dtús báire, lorgóidh an tUachtarán, ar a laghad uair amháin sa bhliain, moltaí faoi rún daingean ó bhail Údarás na hOllscoile, comhaltaí foirne, mic léinn, comhaltaí foirne ar scor agus ó alumnaí maidir le hiarrthóirí féideartha do chéimeanna oinigh.
 4. Cuirfear moltaí an Uachtaráin faoi bhráid OGHD lena meas, agus molfaidh an Grúpa faoi rún daingean liosta iarrthóirí d'Údarás na hOllscoile.
 5. Cuirfear an liosta faoi bhráid Údarás na hOllscoile lena fhaomhadh. Beidh mórán dhá thrian díobh siúd atá i láthair ag cruinniú d'Údarás na hOllscoile ag teastáil d'fhonn an chéim a bhronnfar ar gach iarrthóir a dhearbhu.
 6. Sa bhreis ar iarrthóirí a thiofadh chun cinn le linn an phróisis seo, féadfaidh an tUachtarán, ó am go ham mar is toil leis, iarrthóirí a mholadh go díreach le haghaidh a bhfaofa ag Údarás na hOllscoile.
 7. Is ar Oifig an Uachtaráin amháin atá an fhreagracht cumarsáid a dhéanamh, mar is cuí, leo siúd a ainmneofar do chéimeanna oinigh; is iondúil go rachfar i mbun a leithéid de chumarsáid tar éis don ainmniúchán a bheith faofa ag Údarás na hOllscoile.

Na Critéir atá i bhfeidhm in Ollscoil na Gaillimhe maidir le bronnadh Céimeanna Oinigh

- (i) Ba cheart go bhféachfaí ar bhronnadh céime oinigh ó Ollscoil na Gaillimhe mar ghradam ardleibhéil. Bronntar céimeanna oinigh orthu siúd a bhfuil aitheantas tuillte acu ag an leibhéal seo agus a thugann, ar a seal, onóir do Ollscoil na Gaillimhe.
- (ii) Ba cheart an gradam a bhronnadh ar fhorais cháil phearsanta an iarrthóra, nó a gcáil ionadaíoch.
- (iii) Agus céim oinigh á bronnadh, an príomhchuspóir atá léi ómós a léiriú ar chéimíocht scoláireachta nó cruthaitheachta. Cé go gcuirfear fáilte roimh ainmniú daoine a bhfuil baint acu le hOllscoil na Gaillimhe agus a habhantrach, lena n-áirítear an diaspóra a bhfuil baint acu leis an réigiún, moltar ainmniúcháin do chéimeanna oinigh i gcás daoine a chuir go mór leis an saol acadúil, leis an saol poiblí, agus le feabhsú na sochaí in Éirinn, san Eoraip nó in áiteanna eile go hidirnáisiúnta.
- (iv) Anuas ar ómós a léiriú ar scoláireacht agus ar an gcruthaitheacht, d'fhéadfaí céimeanna oinigh a bhronnadh orthu sin a bhfuil cion suntasach déanta acu trína gcuid iarrachtaí agus seirbhíse, bíodh an cion sin ina gcáil phearsanta nó ionadaíoch, don réimse poiblí agus cultúrtha, leas na sochaí agus leas an chine daonna, in Éirinn, san Eoraip nó in áiteanna eile, agus a bhfuil na luachanna céanna acu is atá ag Ollscoil na Gaillimhe mar atá barr feabhais, meas, oscailteacht, inbhuanaitheacht agus muintearas. I dtéarmaí ginearálta, ní bhronnfar céimeanna oinigh orthu siúd a bhfuil cáil bainte amach acu sa saol polaitiúil agus poiblí go dtí go mbeidh siad éirithe as oifig.
- (v) Agus aitheantas á thabhairt don fhreagracht atá ar Ollscoil na Gaillimhe maidir lenár dteanga dhúchais, an Ghaeilge, d'fhéadfaí céimeanna oinigh a bhronnadh orthu siúd a bhfuil cion déanta acu don Ghaeilge agus don chultúr trína gcuid oibre ar bhonn náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta.
- (vi) Ní ceadmhach céimeanna oinigh a bhronnadh *in absentia*.
- (vii) Bronnfar céimeanna oinigh mar chuid de ghnáthshearmanais bhronnta Ollscoil na Gaillimhe. Féachfar le cothromaíocht inscne agus éagsúlachta a bhaint amach nuair atá liosta na ndaoine a bhfuil céim oinigh le bronnadh orthu á dhréachtú, agus ba cheart go mbeadh na réimsí inar bhain na hiarrthóirí cáil amach agus na téamaí atá i gceist ilghnéitheach, agus an ilghnéitheacht sin le feiceáil sna céimeanna atá le bronnadh.
- (viii) Critéir, treoirphrionsabail agus nósanna imeachta i ndáil le céimeanna oinigh arna mbronnadh ag Seanad OÉ agus teidil céimeanna (*nasc*).