



Honorary degrees at MCI | The Entrepreneurial School®

Honorary degrees policy – effective as of 01 January 2024

1. This policy sets forth the rules and standards for awarding honorary degrees by MCI | The Entrepreneurial School® (hereinafter, “MCI”).
2. No honorary degrees are awarded to members of MCI bodies.
3. Honorary degrees awarded by MCI may relate to:
 - the honoris causa professorship (Professor h.c. or Prof. h.c.)
 - the honorary professorship (Honorary Professor or Hon. Prof.)
 - the title Senator honoris causa (Senator h.c.)
 - the title Honorary Citizen (Honorary Citizen h.c.)

3.1. Professorship honoris causa

The title Professor honoris causa may be awarded to external individuals

- who have strongly supported the establishment and/or the progress of MCI through their personal commitment,
- whose exceptional achievements have contributed to the advancement of science, economy, or society in a way that is also relevant to MCI, and/or
- who are otherwise providing or have provided MCI with exceptional and lasting support.

The title Professor honoris causa does not automatically entail a teaching assignment; yet in individual cases the award may include a teaching obligation.

3.2. Honorary professorship

Honorary professorships are awarded only to distinguished individuals who are not employed at MCI on a full-time basis but are providing or have provided the school to an exceptional extent and in entirely positive ways with idealistic or material support, particularly in the areas of research, development or teaching, over an extended period of time. Use of the Honorary Professor title is, in principle, limited to the duration of the respective person’s teaching or research activity at MCI; upon awarding the title specific requirements may be imposed on the honoree (e.g. regarding the discontinuation of the use of the title after the termination of employment, or the use of suffixes such as retired, emeritus, or similar), however, transition periods may be granted.

3.3. Senator honoris causa

The title Senator honoris causa is awarded to individuals who are not employed at MCI on a full-time basis but are making or have made outstanding contributions to MCI, showing strong personal commitment.

3.4. Honorary Citizen

The title Honorary Citizen is awarded to individuals who are not employed at MCI on a full-time basis but have made an exceptional contribution to research at MCI, the development/equipment of MCI or the promotion of the goals and interests of MCI.

Guideline LFUI: Individuals who have made an exceptional contribution to the areas of science entrusted to the university, to the development/equipment of the university or to the promotion of its goals and interests, may be awarded the honor and the title of an “Honorary Citizen” by the Rectorate.

4. Number

No more than a total of three honorary degrees in the categories defined in 3.1 to 3.4 are to be awarded per calendar year. If no honorary degrees are awarded during any given calendar year, the degrees may be transferred to the three succeeding years. In such a case the number of honorary degrees allowed to be awarded in the respective succeeding year may be increased accordingly.

5. Proposals

Proposals for awarding an honorary degree are to be submitted to the Rectorate. The parties entitled to submit proposals include the Rectorate, the Head of the MCI Academic Council and the heads of academic departments and service departments. A proposal shall include documents providing proof of the outstanding achievements and contributions made by the person recommended.

6. Honorary Degrees Committee and review

The members of the Honorary Degrees Committee are:

- the Rector (chair);
- the Head of the MCI Academic Council or, in the case they should be unable to attend, the Deputy Head; and
- between one and three further members who are to be unanimously appointed by the two aforementioned parties and need not necessarily be affiliated with MCI.

The chair shall be responsible for the correct implementation of the relevant procedures, undertake a preliminary review of proposals in consultation with the Head of the Academic Council, and, in the case of a unanimous positive assessment, forward proposals to the Honorary Degrees Committee for a final decision.

The decision for or against awarding an honorary degree shall be made by the Honorary Degrees Committee based on a simple majority. Should the vote result in a tie, the chair shall have the

casting vote. The final decision as well as the anonymized results of the vote shall be documented in the minutes and signed by the members of the Honorary Degrees Committee.

7. Confidentiality

Strict confidentiality shall be maintained throughout the procedure; particular care shall be taken not to make the intention of awarding an honorary degree public or known to groups of persons who are not involved in the procedure and/or to the person to be honored. A breach of confidentiality may result in the termination of the procedure.

8. Awarding of degrees

In general, honorary degrees are awarded during an academic ceremony. The relevant details, especially regarding the degree ceremony, may be determined by the Rectorate. If deemed reasonable based on specific circumstances (e.g. illness, geographical distance, or similar) the Rectorate may decide to award the degree in a different setting or in a different form; the Honorary Degrees Committee must be informed about such a decision. Awardees receive a certificate but are not entitled to any further material or other claims towards MCI.

9. Validity

All honorary academic degrees become invalid upon the awardee's rejection of the award or upon the honoree's death. The Rectorate shall be entitled to revoke honorary degrees in consultation with the Head of the Academic Council if honorees prove unworthy of the award due to misconduct or if circumstances become known after awarding the degree that would have caused the Honorary Degrees Committee to deny the award.

10. Applicability

This honorary degrees policy is based on a joint resolution by the Academic Council and the Management and the Rector, respectively, shall become effective as of 01. January 2024 and shall remain in force until further notice. The honorary degrees policy may be changed, amended or canceled at any time upon consultation with the aforementioned bodies.