

Criteria and Process for appointing Honorary and Distinguished Visiting Fellowships

Honorary Fellowships

(Statutes V.2: “The right of election to every Fellowship...shall be vested in the Governing Body” and V.30: “Honorary Fellowships are tenable by distinguished persons or by persons who have rendered signal service to the College.”)

Criteria

Offered (on election by Governing Body) to individuals of distinction for their academic, professional or civic achievements to establish a lifelong honorary affiliation with the College. As well as being distinguished in their own field and making a sustained impact in the world, an Honorary Fellow would normally (but not always) be:

- a former student; and
- someone who embodies the values of the College; and
- someone whose election would significantly benefit the College by their great experience, insights and reputation.

Honorary Fellows must have the ability or willingness to engage with the College. This includes: to meet with students in College, to attend events, to facilitate connections and offer advice to College, and to be listed in College publications.

Process

- Nominations can be made by any member of Governing Body and should be submitted to the Provost for consideration at Fellowships Committee, who shall decide whether the nomination should be considered by Governing Body.
- Elections will be held at a meeting of Governing Body once per year in Hilary Term Week 8.
- A majority vote of Governing Body is required to be elected.
- If elected, the Provost's Office shall issue the formal invitation to Honorary Fellowship, and the Development Office shall maintain all records of and relationships with Honorary Fellows.
- Subject to Clause 34 of Statute V, an Honorary Fellowship is held for life.

Benefits offered & Budget required

Honorary Fellows may be invited to College events and occasional dinners.

A nominal budget may be required for catering, but normally this would be included in the Development Office, Provost or events budgets and so no additional budget is required.

Distinguished Visiting Fellows

Distinguished Visiting Fellows (DVF) are elected by Governing Body on the basis of outstanding academic achievement or exceptionally distinguished service. They are awarded to individuals who will make a significant contribution to College research activities, the educational experience of students, and/or the wider Worcester College community.

Criteria

Awarded to individuals by a vote of Governing Body on the basis of academic excellence and professional standing and/or an exceptional record of achievement and pre-eminence in a field of social, political or cultural significance. A DVF must embody the values of the College.

Typically, the DVF will be a resident in College for an agreed period of time, during which they will engage with students, give a lecture and become an active member of the College community, as well as having an opportunity to continue their own work.

- **From academia:** Academic Distinguished Visiting Fellows will typically be colleagues from other universities (normally at the rank of Professor) who intend to conduct research in Oxford and be affiliated with the College while on funded sabbatical leave from their host institution. While they do not receive an honorarium, the College is sometimes able to assist with travel expenses to and from Oxford. An office space (which may be shared) and residential accommodation will usually be offered for the term of the Fellowship, as well as membership of the Senior Common Room.
- **From non-academic fields:** The College also welcomes people from throughout the public and private sectors as Distinguished Visiting Fellows. In the past, this has included writers and artists. Non-academic visitors may receive a small stipend, if not to do so would prevent the person from taking up their Fellowship. An office space (which may be shared) and residential accommodation (subject to availability) will usually be offered for the term of the Fellowship, as well as membership of the Senior Common Room.

Process

- Advertised on the College website, written applications shall be made to the Provost's Office by any person interested in becoming a DVF or by a College Fellow at least a term before the start of the proposed fellowship. Such application shall include a clear proposal for when and how the DVF will participate in College life, including but not limited to their contributions to joint research projects, participation in workshops, offering public lectures, and meetings with students. A proposed budget should accompany all proposals.
- Nominations shall be considered by the Fellowships Committee who shall decide whether the nomination should be considered by Governing Body. A recommendation to proceed may depend on the balance of interests or expertise represented by DVFs, as well as available budget, College space and any other relevant considerations.
- Elections will be held at a meeting of Governing Body.
- A majority vote of Governing Body is required to be elected.
- If elected, the Provost's Office shall issue the formal invitation to the DVF, and the Development Office shall maintain all records of and relationships with Distinguished Visiting Fellows. (It is hoped that their residency will mark the beginning of a lifelong relationship with the College.)
- A Governing Body or Senior Fellow of the College shall be responsible for overseeing the engagement of the DVF and helping to coordinate their participation in College life for the duration of the Fellowship.

Benefits offered & budget required

It is not expected to have more than 2 DVFs in any one academic year.

For academic DVFs: Budget should include £500 travel allowance, £500 collaborative research project/event allowance, and core costs of providing accommodation and SCR membership.

For non-academic DVFs: Budget should include a stipend of up to £500, £500 collaborative project allowance, and core costs of providing accommodation and SCR membership.

It is suggested to allocate an annual budget of £6000 in the first instance to establish the programme.

David Isaac updated 2024

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