

Guidelines for Conferring Degrees and Presenting Testamurs

(approved by Council 17 March 2000)

1. Council has accepted that there should be 2 rounds of graduation ceremonies a year to allow candidates who complete course requirements in the normal way to graduate as soon as possible after completion of their course in either Semester 1 or Semester 2.
2. Council has also accepted that candidates who, because of Supplementary and Deferred Ordinary examinations or for some other reason, do not qualify by the required deadlines, may –
 - have their awards conferred at a subsequent ceremony, or
 - have their awards conferred by Council, and be presented to the Chancellor at a subsequent ceremony if desired.
3. In extraordinary circumstances, and provided the candidate has met all requirements stated by the faculty (or by Council) for the receipt of an award, an award may be conferred by the Chancellor or Deputy Chancellor other than at a formal graduation ceremony or Council meeting.

Examples of extraordinary circumstances are –

- where a candidate is unlikely to survive until the next opportunity for conferral of the award arises (in which case a special conferral ceremony may be arranged)
 - where a ceremonial University occasion (eg the University's Centennial Convocation) is likely to be enhanced by the conferral of honorary degrees.
4. Testamurs will normally be presented to graduates and diplomates at the ceremony at which they graduate. If graduates and diplomates choose to graduate through Council, or not to attend a ceremony, their testamurs will be posted to their stated home address unless previous arrangements have been made to collect the testamur.

In certain circumstances, the Chancellor or Deputy Chancellor may present a testamur to a graduate or diplomate who is not able to attend a normal graduation ceremony - for example, a person whose medical condition tends to worsen when they are confronted by a large gathering of people.