



Honorary Degree Procedures and Guidelines

The European Graduate School (EGS) values the opportunity to contribute to society by extending recognition to individuals demonstrating the values of the institution. We are honored to award degrees *honoris causa* to those who reflect the diversity of the EGS, further human well-being, and achieve exceptional scholarly or professional distinction in their field.

I. Criteria and guidelines

Honorary degrees recognize those who bring credit to the EGS, inspire the graduates, and reflect the diversity of the EGS. Achievements of national or international significance deserve priority consideration. It is important that recipients be persons of great integrity, as the choices we make reflect our values as an institution.

There are some necessary restrictions to be considered:

- No degree shall ever be conferred in consideration of the payment of money or the giving of property of whatever kind.
- Declared candidates running for public office are not appropriate nominees.

The three criteria used for selecting honorary degree recipients are listed below. Nominees should distinguish themselves in at least one of these categories:

- distinguished professional, scholarly, intellectual, or creative achievement,
- demonstrated commitment to activities that contribute to the public good,
- service to The European Graduate School that is appropriately recognized with an academic title.

Note that the maximum number of honorary degrees that can be awarded by the EGS in one year is three.

II. Titles of honorary degrees available for conferral:

- PhD in Expressive Arts
- PhD in Philosophy, Art and Social Thought
- PhD in Literary, Musical and Visual Thought

III. Process for nominations

Nominations of candidates for honorary degrees are received throughout the year by the Office of the President of the EGS. Students, faculty, administrators, deans, alumni, and members of the general public may nominate individuals for honorary degrees. Nominations must be submitted by email to administration@egs.edu.

Nominations must be submitted to the Office of the President and are accepted on a rolling basis. They will be discussed and considered annually at the Executive Committee Meeting and will be approved at the Board of Trustees meeting each winter. Complete nominations should be submitted for consideration by November 15th to ensure timely review and adequate event planning.



It should be noted that:

- the President, on behalf of the Board, is the only person authorized to invite a person to receive an honorary degree;
- the EGS shall confer an honorary degree in absentia only in very exceptional and well-grounded cases; and
- the EGS never pays a speaking fee to a person receiving an honorary degree, though it will cover travel costs to the award ceremony

Initial nominations should give a summary of the individual's accomplishments and reason for considering the individual for an honorary degree. If available, a brief biography of the person.

Additional letters supporting the nomination may be included. After initial consideration additional material in support of a nomination can be requested.

IV. Procedure for Awarding a Posthumous Degree

A Posthumous degree may be awarded for a deceased student with the approval of the dean of the division in which the student was enrolled. A family member of the deceased may contact the appropriate dean to begin the process of requesting a posthumous degree. A student who passes away while enrolled and pursuing a degree may be considered for a posthumous award.

On the diploma, the words "awarded posthumously" will appear. On the transcript, a notation will be added to indicate a posthumous degree. The Dean of the relevant program will contact the student's family to invite them to a private diploma presentation ceremony or offer to mail the diploma directly to the family.

V. Confidentiality

Every effort will be made to ensure that individual nominations and discussions of nominees be confidential throughout the process. No publicity shall be issued regarding the nominees until final approval by the Board of Trustees.