



Election to Fellowship of the Learned Society of Wales – 2020-21

Guidance for Honorary Fellowship Nominations

INTRODUCTION

TYPES OF FELLOWSHIP

Each year, the Society elects both Fellows and Honorary Fellows.

We have [over 560 'ordinary' Fellows](#) and elect around 40 each year. They are entitled to use the letters FLSW after their names, and are defined as follows:

*Fellows must be **persons resident in Wales, persons of Welsh birth who are resident elsewhere and others with a particular connection with Wales**; in each case, having a demonstrable record of excellence and achievement in one of the academic disciplines or, being members of the professions, the arts, industry, commerce or public service, having made a distinguished contribution to the world of learning.*

We currently have [seven Honorary Fellows](#) and elect one or two each year. They use the letters HonFLSW after their names, and are defined as follows:

Honorary Fellows may be from any nation, background or field of expertise, as long as they can be demonstrated to have:

- *Made a truly outstanding contribution to the world of learning, **and***
- *Established a world-class reputation and status in their field*

Election to both types of Fellowship is a public recognition of excellence, but the standard for Honorary Fellowship is particularly high. The process of election is different to that for ordinary Fellows, as detailed on the next page.

ROLE OF HONORARY FELLOWS

Honorary Fellows help the Society to enhance its prestige and reputation as the national academy of Wales. Once elected, they are lifelong members.

We ask Honorary Fellows to deliver a lecture for the Society after being elected, and we may occasionally ask them to contribute in other ways.

Honorary Fellows are not asked to pay an admission fee or subscription fee. They are not entitled to vote on Society business, but are entitled to any other privileges of being a Fellow.



THE ELECTION PROCESS

STAGE 1: CERTIFICATE OF RECOMMENDATION

A Fellow may submit a Certificate of Recommendation at any time of the year. This is a short initial nomination form, downloadable from www.learnedsociety.wales/fellowship/becoming-a-fellow/nomination-forms

The Proposer (the Fellow making the nomination) must include the following information:

- Nominee's name and title
- The names of two Seconders, who must also be Fellows
- A statement of recommendation (200 words maximum) outlining the Nominee's achievements

Once complete, the Proposer should send the Certificate to nominations@lsw.wales.ac.uk.

For a nomination to be considered in the 2020-21 election cycle, we must receive the Certificate of Recommendation by **Wednesday 23 September 2020**.

Important note: unlike nominations for ordinary Fellowship, the Proposer and Seconders **must not** inform the Nominee that they are being recommended. The Chief Executive will do so at Stage 4, once Council has approved a nomination.

STAGE 2: INITIAL ASSESSMENT

We will send all Certificates of Recommendation to the Fellowship Committee. This committee considers all matters relating to the nomination and election of Fellows. It includes both of the Society's Vice-Presidents and several other Fellows, representing a range of expertise.

The Fellowship Committee will carry out an initial scrutiny of the Certificates of Recommendation. Where additional expertise is needed, it will seek support from chairs of the relevant Scrutiny Committees. It will then provide the Society's Council with a ranked list of proposed nominees.

STAGE 3: AGREEMENT OF POTENTIAL NOMINEES

At its meeting in December 2020 or January 2021, Council will consider the ranked list provided by the Fellowship Committee. It will agree which of the individuals may be approached formally to be nominees; normally this will be a maximum of two nominees plus one reserve.

Please note that a Council member acting as Proposer for an Honorary Fellow may not participate in this discussion.

STAGE 4: NOMINATION FORM

The full Nomination Form can now be completed. The Chief Executive will do the following:

- Inform the Nominee of Council's decision, ask if they accept the nomination, and note the date of the Society's AGM and Annual Dinner
- Ask the Nominee to complete their section of the form
- Gather the required signatures from the Proposer and Seconders



The Proposer may be asked to assist with communications with the Nominee during this stage.

For a nomination to be considered in the 2020-21 election cycle, we must receive the completed Nomination Form by **Monday 1 March 2021**.

STAGE 5: FORMAL CONSIDERATION OF NOMINATIONS

The completed forms will be sent to Council, which will consider them at its Special Meeting in March 2021. This is the same meeting at which nominations for ordinary Fellowship are finalised.

STAGE 6: ELECTION OF HONORARY FELLOWS

Once approved by Council, Nominees for both ordinary and Honorary Fellowship will be included on a ballot of all current Fellows. At this stage, we will informally advise Nominees that they are on the ballot.

AFTER THE ELECTION

We will write to new Honorary Fellows to inform them of their success. We will invite them formally to the AGM and Annual Dinner, which usually take place on the same day in May.

Later, we will invite each Honorary Fellow to give a lecture on an appropriate topic.

If a Nominee did not proceed to election, their Certificate of Recommendation will be valid for consideration for a further five years. During this time, the Proposer should update the Certificate.

CRITERIA FOR ELECTION

Criteria and measures of distinction will, of course, vary between different disciplines and areas of achievement. However, in all cases we define excellence in terms of:

- The Nominee's contributions
- The impact of these contributions on the world of learning
- The originality of the Nominee's methods within the discipline or profession, and their contributions to academic life and wider society
- The professional standing of the Nominee amongst our existing Fellows or outside
- Evidence of a strong international reputation

As noted on p.1, Honorary Fellows will have made a truly outstanding contribution and established a world-class reputation and status in their field.

We are committed to supporting, developing and promoting equality and diversity in all the Society's practices and activities. We aim to establish an inclusive culture, free from discrimination and based upon the values of dignity, courtesy and respect. We value diversity and recognise that our Fellowship is greatly enhanced by a disparate range of backgrounds, experiences, views, beliefs and cultures represented by its staff and its Fellows. Nominations for Fellowship are welcomed in Welsh or English.



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