



Election to Fellowship of the Learned Society of Wales – 2024/25

Guidance for Honorary Fellowship Nominations

INTRODUCTION

TYPES OF FELLOWSHIP

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

We have [over 700 'ordinary' Fellows](#) and elect around 50 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 [sixteen Honorary Fellows](#) and typically 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.

Fellows are encouraged to consider potential Honorary Fellows from across the world, including Wales.

A “truly outstanding contribution to the world of learning” may be interpreted widely. This may include nominees who have:

- Made an outstanding direct contribution to the education process (through research, teaching or educational leadership)
- Made significant achievements in an international leadership role
- Used their talents and influence to make an outstanding impact on society more widely, e.g. as a highly regarded role model
- Excelled in their chosen field in a way that has contributed indirectly to learning, e.g. through significantly influencing their field or inspiring future generations

Honorary Fellows may be from either academic or non-academic backgrounds.



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.

Although there are no specific expectations associated with the award, we will invite each Honorary Fellow to be involved in helping to deliver our goal of promoting wider learning and debate in Wales, whilst also raising the profile of the Society, for example through a public lecture or presentation of a medal.

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 2024/25 election cycle, we must receive the Certificate of Recommendation by **Monday 30 September 2024**.

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 November 2024, 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 2024/25 election cycle, we must receive the completed Nomination Form by **Friday 28 February 2025**.

STAGE 5: FORMAL CONSIDERATION OF NOMINATIONS

The completed forms will be sent to Council, which will consider them at its Special Meeting in March 2025. 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.

We will invite each Honorary to be involved in helping to deliver our goal of promoting wider learning and debate in Wales.

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.

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

The Learned Society of Wales has a strong commitment to equality and diversity. We want to ensure the Society is welcoming and inclusive, and we will not stand for any form of discrimination.

We strive for a more diverse Fellowship, with increased membership from all under-represented groups. At present, we have a particular focus on increasing nominations of women.

We encourage nominations from academia, business, the professions, the public and third sectors.

We recognise that excellence can be demonstrated over a range of career lengths, and our Scrutiny Committees do not have a set expectation of a Fellow's age. What is important is that Nominees meet our Criteria of Excellence. By focusing on Nominees' achievements, professional standing and wider contributions, we aim to ensure that our Fellows are authoritative examples of the very best of Wales across all areas of learning.

Nominations are welcomed in Welsh and/or English.

CONTACT US

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