Regulations for Giving Recognition

Adopted based on clause 12 (2) 16 of the Statutes of the University of Tartu.

I. General provisions

1. The University of Tartu gives awards to recognise university members who have made a significant contribution to the achievement of the university’s objectives and performed excellent service to the society, and individuals outside the university who have rendered valuable services to the university and promoted the Estonian culture and language.

2. The central forms of recognition of the University of Tartu (‘the university’) include
   2.1. the award “Contribution to Estonian National Identity”; 
   2.2. the grant of an honorary doctorate of the University of Tartu; 
   2.3. the grant of an honorary fellowship of the University of Tartu; 
   2.4. the award “Pillar of the University”; 
   2.5. honorary decorations.

3. By a corresponding decree, the rector establishes awards for significant achievements in particular fields of activity, such as teaching, research and development and serving the society, and determines the conditions and procedure for their conferment.

4. The council of a faculty, institute, college and non-faculty institution and the vice rector have the right to establish awards in their faculty, institute, college, institution or field of activity and determine the conditions and procedure for their conferment.

5. The list of awardees of a recognition of the university is published on the university’s web page.

II. The award “Contribution to Estonian National Identity”

6. With the award “Contribution to Estonian National Identity”, the university recognises an individual whose creative work has significantly promoted the national and state identity of Estonians and Estonia. The award was established in 2004.

7. Nominations for the award “Contribution to Estonian National Identity” may be made by members of the university council and senate, by the councils of faculties, institutes, colleges and non-faculty institutions, by the councils of other research and development institutions and by legal persons registered in Estonia.

8. To select the recipient of the award, the senate forms an eleven-member committee comprising the rector as chair of the committee, the recipient of the award from the previous year, four members from the university and five members from outside the university. The committee is convened for a term of three years and a recipient of the award becomes a member of the committee in the year following the year of his or her selection.

9. The grant of the award is authenticated by a certificate signed by the rector. The recipient of the award is presented with a work of art bearing a fitting inscription and with 50 volumes of the series Eesti Mõttelugu [The Story of Estonian Thought] published by Ilmamaa.

10. The name and signature of the recipient are inscribed in the honour roll of the award, which is kept by the academic secretary.

11. The rector presents the recipient with the award and the certificate on 1 December at the ceremony marking the anniversary of the Estonian national university.

III. Honorary doctorate of the University of Tartu
12. An honorary doctorate of the University of Tartu (‘honorary doctorate’) may be conferred on eminent and internationally recognised researchers, politicians and cultural figures who have helped to promote the role of the University of Tartu and the Estonian research internationally and notably contributed to building relationships between the University of Tartu and other universities and research institutions of the world. The honorary title was established in 1803.

13. The right to propose candidates for honorary doctorates may be exercised by five senate members jointly and by the councils of faculties and non-faculty institutions.

14. The senate decides the granting of honorary doctorates at its May meeting. The senate may, by its previous resolution, limit the number of honorary doctorates to be conferred in a given year. The senate decides on the name of the research field of the honorary doctor based on the proposal by the academic committee.

15. The university presents honorary doctors with a medal and a certificate. The medal is engraved with the name of the honorary doctor. The certificate bears the name of the honorary doctor, the name of the research field and the merits for which the honorary title was given. The text on the certificate is both in Estonian and in Latin. The certificate is signed by the rector and the dean of the relevant faculty.

16. The name and signature of the honorary doctor are inscribed in the honour roll of the award, which is kept by the academic secretary.

17. Honorary doctorates are conferred on 1 December at the ceremony marking the anniversary of Estonian national university.

18. Honorary doctors are invited to festive events of the university as guests of honour.

IV. Honorary fellowship of the University of Tartu

19. An honorary fellowship of the University of Tartu (‘honorary fellowship’) may be conferred on a natural person who has made a significant contribution to the attainment of a statutory objective of the University of Tartu, including by means of substantial monetary support. The honorary title was established in 1852.

20. The right to propose candidates for honorary fellowships may be exercised by members of the university senate and council and by councils of faculties and non-faculty institutions.

21. The university council decides on the granting of an honorary fellowship.

22. An honorary fellowship may be granted posthumously.

23. The university presents honorary fellows with a medal and a certificate. The medal is engraved with the name of the honorary fellow. The certificate bears the name of the honorary fellow and lists the merits for which the honorary title was given. The text on the certificate is both in Estonian and in Latin. The certificate is signed by the rector.

24. The name and signature of the honorary fellow are inscribed in the honour roll of the award, which is kept by the academic secretary.

25. The rector presents the recipient with the medal and the certificate on 1 December at the ceremony marking the anniversary of the Estonian national university.

26. Honorary fellows are invited to festive events of the university as guests of honour.

V. The award “Pillar of the University”

27. The award “Pillar of the University” is presented to recognise natural and legal persons who have made a highly significant contribution to the development of the University of Tartu and promoted its good name and standing in Estonia and abroad. The award was established in 1994.
28. The right to make nominations for the award “Pillar of the University” may be exercised by members of the university senate and council and by the councils of faculties and non-faculty institutions.

29. The senate decides the giving of the award “Pillar of the University”.

30. The award “Pillar of the University” is a stylised dolomite likeness of a pillar of the university’s main building.

31. The name and signature of the recipient are inscribed in the honour roll of the award, which is kept by the academic secretary.

32. The rector presents the recipient with the award and the certificate at a ceremony to award honorary decorations organised during the anniversary celebrations of the Estonian national university.

VI. Honorary decorations

33. Honorary decorations awarded to university members include
   33.1. the Grand Medal of the University of Tartu (‘the Grand Medal’), awarded for services of particular value. The Grand Medal was established in 1995;
   33.2. the Medal of the University of Tartu (‘the Medal’), awarded for long-term substantial contribution to the development of the university. The Medal was established in 1996;
   33.3. the Badge of Distinction of the University of Tartu (‘the Badge of Distinction’), awarded for outstanding job achievements or a significant contribution to the activities of the university. The Badge of Distinction was established in 2003.

34. Honorary decorations may be awarded to university members up to one year from the end of their membership.

35. The decoration “100 Semesters at the University of Tartu” is awarded to a person who has been related to the university for at least 50 years in total. The time the person has been a student, an employee, a medical resident, an intern or a post-graduate student at the university is calculated towards the time the person has been related to the university. The decoration was established in 2019. [effective as of 1 January 2020]

36. Honorary decorations awarded to individuals outside the university include
   36.1. the Skytte Medal, awarded to a statesperson or other public figure who has greatly contributed to the development of the University of Tartu and higher education in Estonia in the recent years. The Skytte Medal was established in 1995;
   36.2. the Star of Appreciation, awarded to a person who has rendered great services to the university. The Star of Appreciation was established in 2019.

37. All university members may make proposals for the awarding of an honorary decoration. The proposal must include a description of the person’s deed for which the decoration should be awarded. The proposals for awarding of honorary decorations are submitted to the academic secretary by 20 September each year.

38. A committee formed by the senate reviews the submitted proposals and makes a proposal to the senate and the rector on whom to give which honorary decoration.

39. The senate decides the awarding of the Great Medal and the Skytte Medal at its October meeting. The rector decides the awarding of the Medal, the Badge of Distinction and the Star of Appreciation immediately after the senate’s October meeting.

40. The rector decides the awarding of the decoration “100 Semesters at the University of Tartu” on the basis of a proposal by the head of the Human Resources Office. [effective as of 1 January 2020]

41. Each decoration is engraved with its serial number. [effective as of 1 January 2020]

42. The name and signature of the recipient of a decoration are inscribed in the honour roll of the award, which is kept by the academic secretary. [effective as of 1 January 2020]
43. The honorary decorations and the corresponding certificates are awarded to recipients at a ceremony to award honorary decorations organised during the anniversary celebrations of the Estonian national university. As an exception, the rector may decide to award an honorary decoration to its recipient at another event. The Skytte Medal may be awarded also on the commemoration day of Johan Skytte, the de facto founder of Academia Gustaviana and the first Chancellor of the university.

44. The description and design of honorary decorations are established by rector’s decree.

VII. University of Tartu letter of appreciation

45. The University of Tartu letter of appreciation (‘letter of appreciation’) may be awarded to university members and individuals outside the university who have made a significant contribution to the success of an undertaking related to the university or rendered valuable long-standing service to the university.

46. The rector, vice rector, dean, area director, head of an institute, director of a college and director of a non-faculty institution may award letters of appreciation on behalf of the university.

47. All heads of structural units may propose awarding a letter of appreciation to the rector, vice rector, dean and area director. All employees of relevant units may propose awarding a letter of appreciation to the head of an institute, director of a college and director of a non-faculty institution.

48. The issuer of a letter of appreciation decides its awarding by a directive.

49. Letters of appreciation are created in calligraphic lettering on a specially designed form of a uniform design bearing the logo of the unit.

50. The issuer decides the place and manner of awarding the letter of appreciation.

51. The list of recipients of the letter of appreciation is published on the university’s web page.

VIII. Implementing provisions

52. The Regulations for Giving Recognition take effect on 1 September 2020, except for clauses 35 and 40–42 that take effect on 1 January 2020.

53. The first decorations “100 Semesters at the University of Tartu” are awarded on 21 February 2020 at the university assembly hall at the ceremony to mark the anniversary of the Republic of Estonia.

54. Persons who have received the Skytte Medal, the Grand Medal or the Medal before the entry into force of these regulations can get a decoration designed according to clause 44 if they so wish. For that, the awardee submits a written application to the academic secretary.

55. The Regulations for Giving Recognition adopted by the Senate of the University of Tartu Regulation no. 5 of 27 April 2012 and amended by Regulation no. 30 of 18 December 2015 are repealed.

The Statute of Honorary Doctorates of the University of Tartu adopted by the Senate of the University of Tartu Regulation no. 6 of 27 April 2012 and amended by Regulation no. 30 of 18 December 2015, the Statute of Honorary Fellowship of the University of Tartu adopted by the Senate of the University of Tartu Regulation no. 7 of 27 April 2012 and amended by Regulation no. 30 of 18 December 2015, the Statute of the Skytte Medal adopted by the Senate of the University of Tartu Regulation no. 18 of 20 December 2013 and amended by Regulation no. 30 of 18 December 2015, the Statute of the University of Tartu Award ‘Contribution to Estonian National Identity’ adopted by the Senate of the University of Tartu Regulation no. 8 of 27 April 2012 and amended by Regulation no. 30 of 18 December 2015 and the Statute of the Grand Medal of the University of Tartu adopted by the Senate of the University of Tartu Regulation no. 9 of 27 April 2012 and amended by Regulation no. 30 of 18 December 2015 are repealed.