

## UNIVERSITY NOTICE

Between December 2019 and September 2020, the Court approved modifications to the Ordinances listed below.

Modifications approved by the Court:	Date of approval
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Ordinance A2: Members of the University</i></li> </ul>	25 September 2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Ordinance F4: Emeritus Titles</i></li> <li>• <i>Ordinance F6: Honorary Titles</i></li> <li>• <i>Ordinance F7: Visiting Titles</i></li> <li>• <i>Ordinance M1: Academic Freedom</i></li> </ul>	29 June 2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Ordinance B6: Delegation by the Court</i></li> <li>• <i>(new) Ordinance B13: Appointment of Staff Trade Union Members to the Court</i></li> </ul>	27 March 2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Ordinance J1: Appointment of the Vice-Principal</i></li> </ul>	4 February 2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Ordinance E3: Graduates' Association</i></li> <li>• <i>Ordinance F2: Appointment of Academic Staff and of Professional Services Staff</i></li> </ul>	13 December 2019

The changes to the Ordinances can be summarised as:

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**ORDINANCE F4: EMERITUS TITLES**  
**ORDINANCE F6: HONORARY TITLES**  
**ORDINANCE F7: VISITING TITLES**  
**ORDINANCE M1: ACADEMIC FREEDOM**

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The changes to Ordinances F4, F6, F7 and M1 were considered and approved as a group and are to ensure complete alignment between the Ordinance provisions and the revisions approved by the Senate at its meeting on 23 April 2020 to the Policy and Procedures relating to Honorary, Visiting and Emeritus Titles (please see the [Senate pages](#) for more details on the Policy and Procedures).

**Ordinance F4**, previously titled 'Emeritus Professors' now includes provision for the following awards: Professor Emeritus; Professor Emerita; Professor Emeritum; Professorial Fellow Emeritus; Professorial Fellow Emerita; and Professorial Fellow Emeritum.

**Ordinance F6** now includes more detailed provision, including to allow that the award of an honorary title may be revoked by the Senate under conditions laid out in the Policy.

**Ordinance F7**, previously titled 'Visiting Professors' now includes provision for the following awards: Visiting Professor; Visiting Professorial Fellow; Visiting Associate Professor; Visiting Assistant Professor; and Visiting Research Fellow.

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For clarity and consistency, some provision was added to **Ordinance M1: Academic Freedom** so that “A person who holds an emeritus, honorary or visiting title as defined in Ordinances F4, F6 and F7 shall for the purposes of their agreed, written association with the University be considered as a ‘relevant person’ under the Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 2005 and shall be permitted to carry the rights and responsibilities of Academic Freedom as prescribed in this Ordinance M1.”

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## **ORDINANCE A2: MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY**

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The changes to Ordinance A2 primarily are to ensure consistency between the definitions in A2 and the expanded Emeritus and Visiting Titles now permitted by Ordinances F4 and F7 (as approved by the Court in June). There is also a change to introduce gender neutral terminology.

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## **(new) ORDINANCE B13: APPOINTMENT OF STAFF TRADE UNION MEMBERS TO THE COURT**

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The new Ordinance B13 enables appointments to be made to the two positions on the Court set aside for persons nominated by the campus trade unions. These positions were introduced under the terms of the Higher Education Governance (Scotland) Act 2016, and have been filled from 1 August 2020. The Ordinance was subject to considerable consultation and had been approved in principle at the December 2019 meeting of the Court, pending further consultation.

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## **ORDINANCE E3: GRADUATES’ ASSOCIATION**

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The changes to Ordinance E3 primarily relate to the appointment of the member of the Court nominated by the Graduates’ Association (Watt Club), and again the changes were required as a consequence of the Higher Education Governance (Scotland) Act 2016.

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## **ORDINANCE B6: DELEGATION BY THE COURT**

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The changes to Ordinance B6 are to address requests from the Ordinances & Regulations Committee that there should be more clarity around the powers of the Court Interim Business Committee and also delegated authority to Heriot-Watt University Malaysia and Heriot-Watt University Dubai. The Governance and Nominations Committee had also recommended that there be clarity about particular areas of authority delegated to the Principal and the Secretary of the University. Further modifications include an additional new section 4 for reasons of clarity as well as additions in section 7, which arose out of work to develop the role description for the Chair of Court role.

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## **ORDINANCE J1: APPOINTMENT OF THE VICE-PRINCIPAL**

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The changes to Ordinance J1 were primarily related to the selection committee that is established to conduct the recruitment of the Vice-Principal, as well as aligning the appointment process with that of appointing the successful candidate as a professor of the University. The Court had agreed an earlier version of the modified Ordinance at its meeting in December 2019, however the need for further modification had been identified almost immediately, and the updated version was put to the Court and approved in February 2020.

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## **ORDINANCE F2: APPOINTMENT OF ACADEMIC STAFF AND OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES STAFF**

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The changes to Ordinance F2 validate the above application of the committee composition rules in Ordinance J1 and also in Ordinance H1 (Appointment of the Principal). The opportunity was also taken to remove references to 'Librarian' from the Ordinance. These references are historical and no longer represent the different functional and organisational nature of library services. The Court noted that a more comprehensive review of Ordinance F2 is being conducted during 2020, and that further proposed revisions will be submitted to the Court in due course.

The full set of University Ordinances (as amended) can be viewed via the following link:

<https://www.hw.ac.uk/documents/ordinances.pdf>

Further work to modernise the Ordinances is continuing and further notices will be released with confirmation of changes and additions, as and when these are approved by the Court.

Any questions about the Ordinances should be directed to John McDermott, Corporate Governance Officer ([j.mcdermott@hw.ac.uk](mailto:j.mcdermott@hw.ac.uk)), or Lorna Kirkwood-Smith, Head of Group (Corporate) Governance ([l.a.kirkwood-smith@hw.ac.uk](mailto:l.a.kirkwood-smith@hw.ac.uk))

Corporate Governance Team  
5 October 2020

**This notice to be displayed for at least 28 days.**