



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

News Release

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Bollywood star Shah Rukh Khan receives honorary degree

One of the world's most popular actors – Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan – has received an honorary degree from the University of Edinburgh.

Mr Khan received the degree of Doctor Honoris Causa from the University Chancellor HRH The Princess Royal in Edinburgh.

The actor - who has appeared in more than 80 films – was presented with the degree in recognition of his outstanding record of philanthropy, altruism and humanitarianism and his global reach as an actor.

Mr Khan's charitable work has included bringing solar power to rural villages in India, creating a children's ward at a Mumbai hospital and supporting relief funds to assist areas devastated by tsunamis.

After receiving his honorary degree, Mr Khan – who has more than 15 million Twitter followers – gave a public lecture, which was attended by many of the University's 400 South Asian students, along with South Asian community groups.

The University has been linked with India for nearly 250 years. Professor William Robertson, Edinburgh's Principal from 1762 to 1793 and a noted Enlightenment thinker, wrote one of the earliest European texts to focus on India.

Edinburgh's first Indian student graduated in 1876 and by the 1920s its Indian student population was greater than that of any other UK University.

The University of Edinburgh's India Institute and its India Liaison Office in Mumbai seek to extend the University's relationship with India by encouraging research collaborations and academic exchanges.

Receiving his honorary degree, Shah Rukh Khan, said: "It is a pleasure to be honoured by the University of Edinburgh and tread in the footsteps of so many of the world's illustrious thinkers, leaders and personalities. To have the opportunity to address one of the most esteemed educational institutions in the world is a special moment. I look forward to the University continuing on its path as a great civic university, demonstrated by its partnership with India, addressing health, academic and research excellence and social justice. I hope that many more of India and South Asia's brightest minds get a chance to learn, think and grow at Edinburgh."

Professor Charlie Jeffery, University of Edinburgh Senior Vice-Principal, said: "The University of Edinburgh has very strong ties with India and I am delighted that we are able to recognise the

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philanthropic work and career of one of the most outstanding stars of world cinema. It is a great privilege to present Shah Rukh Khan with one of our highest honours, a doctorate of the University. As India's population and economy grow, so too does the demand for world-class education. Our aim at Edinburgh is to build partnerships and strengthen awareness that will reinforce our position as the partner of choice for the Indian knowledge economy."

For further information, please contact:

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Raw video footage of Shah Rukh Khan's visit to the University, including a one-to-one interview with him and footage of him receiving his honorary degree, will be available to download from the University's Vimeo page, from approximately 17:30 BST on 15 October. This can be found here: <https://vimeo.com/user9979405>

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