

The Honorary Graduand: Simon Walker

The Orator: Professor Dylan Jones-Evans

Simon Walker is to be awarded the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Business Administration.

Simon Walker became Director General of the Institute of Directors in October 2011. As the public face of the Institute of Directors, and the most senior representative of the membership, Simon debates regularly in the media and engages with senior figures from across government, politics and Whitehall.

He previously served as Chief Executive of the British Venture Capital Association, the organisation that represents British private equity and venture capital, from October 2007 to March 2011.

Between 2003 and 2007 Simon worked at Reuters as Director of Corporate Communications and Marketing. He was Communications Secretary to HM The Queen at Buckingham Palace from 2000 to 2003 and earlier served as Director of Corporate Affairs at British Airways. From 1996-1997 Simon worked as a special adviser in the Prime Minister's Policy Unit at 10 Downing Street.

Simon was previously a partner at Brunswick, the public relations group, and Director of European Public Affairs for Hill and Knowlton in Brussels. He has been a member of the Better Regulation Commission, a Trustee of The Queen's Golden Jubilee Trust and the New Zealand-UK Link Association. He is a Council Member of the European Policy Forum and a member of the Parliamentary Speaker's Advisory Committee on Public Engagement. In 2015, GQ magazine listed Simon among the 100 best connected men in the country.

Simon was born in South Africa, and has worked as a journalist and consultant in New Zealand, Belgium and the UK. He read Philosophy, Politics and Economics at Balliol College, Oxford, where he was President of the Oxford Union. He was a Knight Journalism Fellow at Stanford University. He is married with two children.

The Honorary Degree is awarded in recognition of Simon Walker's outstanding achievement in business administration.