The honorary degree of Doctor of Science in Economics was conferred upon Sir Frederick Deer by the Chancellor Sir Hermann Black at a degree conferring ceremony held on 14 April 1984 in the Great Hall.

Sir Frederick, a Fellow of the University Senate from 1959 to 1983, was General Manager of MLC Assurance Co Ltd from 1955 to 1974 and had served many public causes. The honorary degree was awarded in recognition of Sir Frederick's outstanding contributions to the University and to the wider community.