

University of Southern Queensland Honorary Doctorate (*honoris causa*) Guidelines

Background

Nominations for USQ honorary doctorates are considered biannually by the Honorary Awards Committee and recommended to USQ Council for approval and conferral at an appropriate graduation or other ceremonial event. The purpose of an honorary doctorate award is to:

- acknowledge distinguished and/or significant contribution to the University and or/community
- acknowledge strong advocacy of, and contributions to, the ideals of the University
- recognise outstanding scholarship and/or professional practice in one or more disciplines or professions.

USQ honorary doctorates and titles are purely titular and do not form part of the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) as they are not qualifications issued as a result of an accredited and completed academic program. They are a means through which the University acknowledges outstanding scholarly achievements, community service and/or service to the University. Any certification documentation issued to a recipient will specify that the award is honorary.

All honorary doctorate recipients will receive from the University:

- an invitation to attend a graduation or other ceremonial event where the award will be conferred
- a Testamur
- a framed citation which is also read at the graduation or ceremonial conferral event
- academic dress, comprising a gown, hood and bonnet
- an invitation to address the audience at the graduation or ceremonial conferral event (where possible).

Under University policy the following Honorary Doctorates may be awarded:

Award	Postnominal
Doctor of the University (<i>honoris causa</i>)	HonDUniv(USQ)
Doctor of Letters (<i>honoris causa</i>)	HonDLitt(USQ)
Doctor of Business (<i>honoris causa</i>)	HonDBus(USQ)
Doctor of Engineering (<i>honoris causa</i>)	HonDEng(USQ)
Doctor of Science (<i>honoris causa</i>)	HonDSc(USQ)

Academic Dress

In recognition of their contribution to scholarship and the community, the University will provide honorary doctorate recipients with academic dress appropriate to their doctorate (see descriptions below). It is University policy for the recipient to wear the required academic dress to the graduation or other ceremonial event where the award is to be conferred. The academic dress may also be worn at any USQ or other event where participants are invited to wear academic dress.

Award	Gown	Hood or Stole	Bonnet
Doctor of the University (<i>honoris causa</i>)	A scarlet gown of the Cambridge doctoral style, faced in vitrix blue, edged with gold. Sleeves fully lined in vitrix blue and edged with gold.	A scarlet Cambridge full hood, fully lined in vitrix blue, and edged to a depth of 2.5cm with gold.	A black velvet bonnet with gold cord and tassel.
Doctor of Letters (<i>honoris causa</i>) Doctor of Business (<i>honoris causa</i>) Doctor of Engineering (<i>honoris causa</i>) Doctor of Science (<i>honoris causa</i>)	A scarlet gown of the Cambridge doctoral style, faced with field of study/ faculty/ school colour, edged with gold. Sleeves fully lined in field of study/faculty/school colour.	A scarlet Cambridge full hood fully lined in field of study/ faculty/ school colour and edged to a depth of 2.5cm with gold.	A black velvet bonnet with a gold cord and tassel.

Use of Award Titles and Postnominals

USQ honorary doctorates and titles are purely titular, in that they confer no rights on the recipient and carry with them no formal academic qualification. They are a means through which the University may acknowledge an individual's outstanding scholarly achievements and/or community service and/or service to the University. As such, any certification documentation issued to an honorary doctorate award recipient will specify that the award is honorary.

Recipients of an honorary doctorate are entitled to cite the award or postnominals verbally or in written documentation but, in doing so, the honorary status of the award should be noted.

A recipient's use of the title 'Dr' before their name is restricted to engagement with the University of Southern Queensland and may not be used within the broader community. For example, Dr John Smith is **not** an approved use of the honorary doctorate title within the broader community. However, John Smith, Doctor of the University (*honoris causa*) or Mr John Smith, HonDUniv(USQ), may be used.

Postnominals can be used from the date the award is conferred.

Other guidelines for the use of postnominals are provided below:

- All formal University communication with recipients of an honorary doctorate will be addressed by the University using the honorary title 'Dr'.
- Postnominals are listed in the order in which they were awarded (honorary degrees should follow academic degrees), followed by membership of professional societies
- Postnominals are written in abbreviated form, without spaces or punctuation.
- Where there is more than one postnominal they are separated by a comma and a space.

Examples of appropriate postnominal use include:

Professor William Green, AO LLB, HonDUniv(USQ)
Jane Smith HonDLitt(USQ)
Mrs Jane Citizen HonDSc(USQ)
Mr John Citizen OBE BSc(NSW), HonDSc(USQ)

Further information relating to honorary awards from the University of Southern Queensland is available from the USQ Graduations Office on **07 4631 2779** or via gradceremonies@usq.edu.au.