

Guidelines for the Use of the Title 'Doctor'



1. The University holds academic awards and qualifications in high esteem and affirms this esteem through the consistent use of the customary titles attached to such awards and qualifications.
2. The University acknowledges the many different forms of doctorate, all of which bestow the title 'Doctor' upon the holder. These forms include:
 - an advanced programme of study combining course work and research (e.g. EdD)
 - the results of advanced research published in a thesis (e.g. PhD)
 - the recognition of a substantive body of work and contribution to scholarship undertaken over the course of a career (e.g. DSc or DLit)
 - an honorary award recognising an outstanding and distinguished contribution to a university or its community.The University does not distinguish between any of these forms of doctorate in its use of the title 'Doctor'.
3. The University uses the honorific 'Dr' in all official correspondence with any person who is known to have a doctorate of any type from any university, and in all official documentation and formal records of proceedings, in accordance with the approved style and conventions for such documents.
4. The University, in conferring a doctorate upon a person, grants the recipient the right to:
 - use the appropriate abbreviation for the degree after his or her name (e.g. PhD, EdD, HonD)
 - preface his or her name with 'Dr'
5. In the case of doctorates awarded as the result of an examination process, the degree holder may be referred to as having a doctorate in a particular discipline or area of expertise (although strictly speaking, it is conferred as a degree of the university).
6. An honorary doctorate recognises a special contribution by an individual - the supporting case for each award is unique. The award is not associated with a particular area of academic expertise. Therefore, recipients should not claim or imply any such expertise in direct relation to the award (although they may have other qualifications or credentials that attest to their expertise in a particular discipline).