Deakin Honorary Degrees Program

Deakin Honorary Doctorates are awarded by the University Council to honour individuals’ inspiring achievements and contributions to the community aligned to the University’s objectives.

Deakin Honorary Doctorates are not associated with a specific academic discipline. Instead they are accompanied by a citation explaining the achievements being honoured. Therefore Deakin honorary degrees:

• are clearly distinguished from degrees earned by fulfilling academic requirements
• can honour an individual’s outstanding contribution to a specific field or to a range of fields beyond traditional disciplinary categories.

Conferral

Where possible honorary degrees will be awarded at graduation ceremonies. All awardees receive:

• an invitation to attend a graduation or other ceremonial event
• a testamur and framed citation which is read at the conferral event
• academic dress for the conferral event
• an invitation to provide the occasional address at the conferral event as appropriate.

All awardees are listed on the University’s Awards and Honours website and the citation for their award is published on the website.

Titles and Postnominals

Honorary degrees do not form part of the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) and carry with them no formal qualification. Any certification documentation issued to a recipient will specify that the award is honorary.

Awardees are entitled to cite the award but the honorary status of the award should be clear, e.g. Awardee Name, Hon Doc (Deakin).

Honorary degrees should be listed after academic degrees, e.g. Awardee’s Name, LLB, Hon Doc (Deakin).

For honorary doctorates an awardee’s use of the title ‘Dr’ is restricted to engagement with Deakin University. All formal communication with honorary doctorate awardees will be addressed by the University using the honorary title ‘Dr’ (unless s/he has a higher academic title which will be used).

However the title ‘Dr’ may not be used in the broader community because the award does not carry a formal qualification recognised outside the University.

Honorary Degrees Committee

The Honorary Degrees Committee of the University Council considers nominations for honorary degrees. On the advice of the Committee the Vice-Chancellor can recommend honorary degrees to Council.

For further information please contact the Council Secretary, Dr Glenn Nicholls on council-secretary@deakin.edu.au.