



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Titles, Styles and Address for Honorary Degree Recipients

Honorary degrees may be referenced in several ways.

1) Use in biographical sketches

The name of the degree may be written out in full for biographical sketches.

- Doctor of Letters, *honoris causa*
- Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*
- Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*

Examples:

- Jane Smith was awarded a Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*, from the University of British Columbia.
- Jane Smith was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of British Columbia.

2) Abbreviation of degree to follow name

- Doctor of Letters: D.Litt.
- Doctor of Science: D.Sc.
- Doctor of Laws: LL.D.

Example: Jane Smith, LL.D.

Note: The honorary degree should be the last thing noted if other degrees or honorifics are also listed.

Example: Jane Smith, O.B.C., O.C., LL.D. or Jane Smith, B.A., Ph.D., LL.D.

Note: Less common but also acceptable, the abbreviation “*h.c.*” for *honoris causa* may be included following the degree if so wished. Please note italics should be used for the abbreviation to indicate it is a language other than English (Latin.)

Example: Jane Smith, LL.D. *h.c.*

3) Addressing an honorary degree recipient

In situations such as formal correspondence, biographical sketches or formal introductions at a podium, the university who has awarded the honorary degree may address the honorary degree recipient as “doctor.” It is not appropriate for the recipient or others outside of the university to use this title.

Examples:

- Dear Dr. Smith:

- Jane Smith was awarded a Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*, from the University of British Columbia. Dr. Smith has been a very active contributor to the UBC community through her many volunteer roles.
- It is my great pleasure to invite Dr. Jane Smith to say a few words.

Background

The vision of the University of British Columbia is to inspire people, ideas and actions for a better world. This vision is reflected in the individuals who receive honorary degrees from the University. In selecting candidates, the University makes a public declaration of its values, and recognizes individuals of such calibre that in honouring them, it too is honoured. In doing so, the University motivates and inspires its students and graduates.

The criteria for the award of an honorary degree are excellence, eminence and accomplishment. Nominees must be exceptionally distinguished and have made significant contributions locally, nationally, and globally.

Honorary degrees are conferred on deserving individuals who have made substantial contributions to society, such as:

- Leading academics in all disciplines and creative minds in arts and performance;
- Public intellectuals and opinion makers;
- Visionary leaders and exemplary public figures;
- Community builders and philanthropists.

Honorary degrees are conferred *honoris causa*, “for the sake of honour,” and are awarded as one of three types:

- Doctor of Letters, *honoris causa*: for excellence in the arts
- Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*: for excellence in science
- Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*: for excellence in other areas including visionary leaders, philanthropists, public intellectuals, community builders and others.