

DONA International is proud to announce a new designation that serves to honor our certified doulas who have made a major contribution to the promotion and advancement of the mission and purpose of DONA International, the doula profession and in the maternal-child field.

DONA certified birth and postpartum doulas who meet or exceed the qualifications for this distinguished designation, listed below, are invited to applyⁱ. Applications will only be accepted through **September 15, 2015**ⁱⁱ.

If your application meets all of the eligibility criteria, a member of the review committee will notify you of your acceptance no later than **October 30, 2015**, after which you may proudly use the credentials, AdvCD(DONA) or AdvPCD(DONA). This designation is valid for the duration of your *continuous, uninterrupted membership and certification in good standing*ⁱⁱⁱ.

For 2015, during DONA International's inaugural year awarding this designation, recipients will be honored for their achievement on our website, in our publications, on social media and with a video published on the DONA International YouTube [channel](#). Beginning in 2016, applications will *only* be accepted during International Doula Month in May, and distinguished doulas will be invited to participate in a ceremony honoring their achievement during the DONA International annual conference, as well as being recognized in DONA International publications and media.

Eligibility Criteria:

- DONA certified doula in good standing for a minimum of two (2) consecutive recertification periods (i.e., six (6) or more years)
- Pursued additional training, certification and/or licensure in a related field(s) during your tenure as a DONA certified doula
- Published author of a book, magazine article and/or professional blog post (other than your own personal or business blog) on the topic of doulas, birth, breastfeeding, parenting or postpartum issues written while a DONA certified doula
- Made a major contribution(s) locally, regionally, nationally and/or internationally to advance the mission and purpose of DONA International and/or the recognition of doulas and/or made a significant contribution to, or as a leader in, the maternal-child field, other than that which promotes or supports your own personal or business endeavors

Application Procedure:

- Submit the following documentation in electronic format to certification@DONA.org no later than **September 15, 2015**. If you are applying for both the advanced birth doula designation and the advanced postpartum doula designation, separate documentation relevant to each role and application must be submitted, along with a fee for each application.
 - The completed [Application Form](#)
 - Your biography or curriculum vitae
 - A 750-1000 word typed essay detailing how you meet all of the eligibility criteria listed above
 - One (1) letter of reference from a person who has worked with you on your contribution(s) in some capacity or who has first-hand knowledge of such
 - Pay the \$100.00 non-refundable application fee in the [DONA Online Member Center](#) and submit evidence of payment (receipt or screen shot) along with your application

ⁱ It is the expectation of DONA International that potential applicants will have thoughtfully and objectively considered whether they are eligible for this distinguished designation prior to submitting an application. *There are no refunds for applications that are not accepted.*

ⁱⁱ DONA International reserves the right to determine the number of advanced designations to be granted and which doulas shall receive the designation, at the discretion of the review committee.

ⁱⁱⁱ The advanced doula designation synchronizes with the recipient's current certification period and does not alter or extend the expiration date. It is the recipient's responsibility to continuously maintain her/his membership and certification and is not contingent upon reminders from DONA International. Should the recipient fail to maintain continuous membership and certification, s/he risks losing the advanced doula designation.