DOCTOR OF EXCELLENCE REGULATIONS



EAHEA®

European Association for Higher Education Advancement

Document Control

Document	Doctor of Excellence Regulations
Version	4.0
First issued	February 2010
Last updated	November 2026
Document owner	Secretariat of EAHEA
Approving body	Management Board of EAHEA
Review	At least every five years, and whenever a rule that this document relies on changes
Replaces	The previous edition of this document
Related documents	General Provisions; Commissions Charter; Code of Ethics; Logo & Emblem Usage Guidelines
Language	English. The English text is the official version.

Revision History

Version	Date	Description
1.0	February 2010	First edition.
2.0	August 2020	Revised edition.
3.0	April 2024	Revised edition.
4.0	November 2026	Full revision: aligned with the General Provisions, the Commissions Charter and the current services and fees structure of EAHEA.

Regulations for Conferring a Doctor of Excellence

These Regulations set out how EAHEA confers the Doctor of Excellence (Honoris Causa). They are read together with the General Provisions, the Commissions Charter, the Code of Ethics, the Logo & Emblem Usage Guidelines and the certification agreement that the applicant accepts.

1. The Doctor of Excellence

1.1. Definition: The Doctor of Excellence, or Doctor Excellentiae (Latin: "of excellence"), is a professional honor that gives highly qualified professionals from all fields, and people who strive for personal excellence and become a motivating example in their communities, an independent quality assurance reference. It honors professional ability, an outstanding professional career, services to humankind and international achievements.

1.2. Nature: The Doctor of Excellence is an honorary award. It is not an academic degree, an earned academic or research doctorate, a license or an authorization, and the usual academic requirements of a doctorate are waived. Its holder does not present it as an earned doctorate.

2. Eligibility

2.1. Candidates: The Doctor of Excellence is open to any person who demonstrates an excellent level of professional ability, an outstanding professional career and international achievements. The minimum age to apply is 30 years (25 years for bachelor graduates).

2.2. Initial eligibility: The Secretary General considers the initial eligibility of every applicant and must sign and endorse the application before it is passed to the members of the Commission for evaluation. The Secretary General rejects an applicant who does not provide sufficient information and documents to demonstrate an excellent level of professional ability, an outstanding professional career and international achievements.

3. Application

3.1. Online application: The applicant applies online at apply.eahea.org, names the field in which the applicant wants to earn the Doctor of Excellence (one specialization field only) and pays the whole price at once, by card or by bank transfer, when applying.

3.2. Information and documents: The applicant submits in electronic format: the full name; the complete contact data (address, telephone and email); the birth date; an ID picture; a copy of the passport or of an official identification; the details of academic education; the details of the professional career to date, publications and research; any achievements that support the qualification of the candidate; and the curriculum vitae with the supporting documents.

3.3. Affidavit: The information is authenticated by the following affidavit: "I declare that the information and documents presented are true and correct and that I understand the definition of the Doctor of Excellence Award."

3.4. Use of the data: EAHEA uses the birth date, the ID picture and the copy of the passport or identification only to identify the applicant and to prepare the diplomas. The General Provisions on data protection and confidentiality apply.

4. Review and Decision

4.1. Evaluation: After the initial check, the documents are distributed among the members of the Commission, who normally answer within two to four weeks. EAHEA reviews the documents in detail and decides on the basis of the evidence that the applicant submitted.

4.2. Decision: The award is conferred by the majority of three votes: those of the President of EAHEA, the Secretary General and one member of the Accreditation Commission whom the Commission designates under the Commissions Charter. Where the votes are equal because a vote is not cast, the decision for which the President voted prevails. The Secretary General registers the votes. No commissioner is obliged to vote for the award, except to give a judgment on the level of excellence that the candidate demonstrated.

4.3. Notice and award: The applicant is informed in writing about the decision, with the reasons for a refusal. The Doctor of Excellence is not awarded until the required fees have been paid. It is conferred in the form of two diplomas: the Doctor Excellentiae (Latin version) and the Doctor of Excellence (English version).

5. Honorary Point System

5.1. Standard: To validate the admissibility of a candidate, the Commission uses the standard of the EAHEA Honorary Point System (HPS™). Eligibility is based on the critical reading of the curriculum vitae of the candidate, and at least 120 HPS™ must be obtained. The Commission assesses the merits of the candidate in any area of knowledge, art, culture, the professions, science or sport, without any social, religious, political or citizenship discrimination.

5.2. Points: The HPS™ are assigned on the basis of the curriculum vitae of the candidate and the documentary evidence, without distinction of cultural area, for human, social, artistic, literary, scientific and technological merits. Reaching the necessary HPS™ does not oblige EAHEA to confer the Doctor of Excellence. Examples of the distribution of points:

Criterion	Points
Age	15 to 35 HPS™ (the age divided by 2)
Leadership	5 to 20 HPS™ (1 HPS™ per year in managerial positions)
Doctorate education	30 HPS™ for each doctorate degree
Postgraduate education	20 HPS™ for each postgraduate degree
Bachelor's degrees	10 HPS™ for each bachelor degree
Associate's degrees	5 HPS™ for each associate degree
Professional licenses or certifications	1 to 5 HPS™ for each
Instruction, teaching and academic experience	1 to 5 HPS™ for each

Criterion	Points
Honors, awards and other recognition	1 to 5 HPS™ for each
Publications, books, research and articles	1 to 5 HPS™ for each
Social assistance and services to humankind	5 to 20 HPS™
Other professional and international achievements	5 to 20 HPS™
Language skills	5 to 10 HPS™
Digital skills	5 to 10 HPS™

6. Denial and Revocation

6.1. Discretion: The Doctor of Excellence is an honor that EAHEA grants on a discretionary basis. In case of a negative decision, the Secretary General may advise the candidate on future eligibility options and give other recommendations.

6.2. Revocation: EAHEA revokes the Doctor of Excellence if it learns of any deception by the candidate in connection with the documents or information that were provided to qualify for it, of a false, forged or altered document, of misuse of the award, or of a serious breach of the Code of Ethics. Any refund and other rights are lost before, during or after the qualification process.

6.3. Right to comment and reconsideration: Before the decision on a denial or a revocation, the person affected may comment on the charges against them. The person affected may also ask the Secretariat in writing, giving reasons, to reconsider the decision within thirty (30) days of the notice, as the General Provisions provide.

7. The Award and Its Use

7.1. Validity: The Doctor of Excellence is conferred without an end date and is not renewed. It stays valid until it is revoked.

7.2. Title: A recipient of an honorary doctorate may, if they wish, use the title “doctor”. Whether and how an honorary title may be used is a matter of personal choice and of the law and custom of the country where it is used. The recipient always makes clear that the award is honorary, for example:

- Dr. Anna Brown (D.Hon.Ex.)
- Dr. Anna Brown, Doctor of Excellence (H.C.)
- Dr. Anna Brown, Doctor of Excellence (Honoris Causa)
- Hon. Dr. Anna Brown, Doctor of Excellence
- HonD. Anna Brown, Doctor of Excellence

7.3. Use of the badge: The recipient may use only the badge designed for the award, as the Logo & Emblem Usage Guidelines allow, and does not present the award as an earned academic or research doctorate.

7.4. Limits: Decisions on visas, permits and employment are made only by the authorities of the country concerned or by employers. EAHEA does not guarantee any visa, permit, job, admission or other result of the certificate, and employers and educational institutions are free to accept it or not.

8. Fees

8.1. Fees: The price of the service is that of the Service Fees page. It is paid in full when the applicant applies, and it is not refundable, except an amount that was paid twice or by mistake. The Doctor of Excellence is not awarded until the fee is paid.

Contact Us

Phone: +372 634 6234

Email: eahea@eahea.org

Website: www.eahea.org

Address: Tallinn, Estonia

EAHEA®

European Association for Higher Education Advancement