



How Do I Become Certified with DONA International?

To become a DONA International certified birth doula:

1. **Attend a DONA-approved birth doula workshop** of sixteen (16) or more hours in length. The workshop is valid for four (4) years. - **YOU are doing this - YAY!**

Cost: AUD\$750 (early bird) or AUD\$800 if you register after August 1st.

2. **Read at least five (5) books from the Birth Doula Required Reading List** (PDF) and the DONA International Position Paper: The Birth Doula's Contribution to Modern Maternity Care.
3. **Purchase a birth doula certification packet.** The packet expires within two (2) years of purchase. Packet must be purchased prior to attending births intended for certification. It is recommended that you time the purchase of your packet for receipt prior to the anticipated date of the first birth you wish to use for certification following attendance at the birth doula workshop.

Cost: USD\$50 or USD\$40 if you buy membership first

4. **Submit one (1) of the following: YOU are doing B right now! YAY!**
 - A. Childbirth Class Observation Form (PDF) confirming observation of an entire series of comprehensive childbirth preparation classes, taught to a group of pregnant people (as observer, not as an expectant participant yourself).
 - B. Certificate of Attendance at an "Introduction to Childbirth for Doulas" class offered by a DONA approved trainer in conjunction with a DONA approved birth doula workshop.**
 - C. Proof of training in midwifery or as childbirth educator.
 - D. Letter from your supervisor confirming recent or current work experience in labor and delivery as a registered nurse.

Cost: Included in workshop

5. **Submit at least one (1) of the following:**
 - A. Proof of Completion of one (1) of the following approved on-line study programs.
 1. Lactation Education Resources - affordably-priced Complete Self-Learning Program. Click here to learn more.
 2. Breastfeeding Basics - free on-line independent study program. Click here for directions for accessing and registering for the program (PDF). **Cost: FREE**
 - B. Breastfeeding Class Observation Form (PDF) confirming participation in a minimum

three (3) hour breastfeeding workshop covering the basics of breastfeeding offered to birth and postpartum related professionals (preferred), such as those offered at conferences or in conjunction with DONA approved workshops. The workshop must be taught by an educator with recognized breastfeeding credentials (IBCLC, CLE or CLC).

C. Proof of completion of lactation consultant, breastfeeding peer counselor or community breastfeeding educator training.

6. Provide doula service to a minimum of three (3) clients. All births submitted for certification must take place AFTER attending the DONA approved birth doula workshop and AFTER purchasing the birth doula certification packet.

7. For each of the three (3) births submitted for certification, include the following: (samples are available here, but are also included in your purchased certification packet):

A. Client Confidentiality Release Form (PDF)

B. DONA International Birth Record Sheet (PDF)

C. Typewritten (500-700 word) account of each birth (refer to your purchased certification packet for details).

D. Good evaluation (no less than 3s) from your client, the laboring mother (PDF)

E. Good evaluation (no less than 3s) from the primary care provider; plus each physician evaluation must be accompanied by a nurse evaluation. (PDF)

8. Develop a list of at least forty-five (45) local resources in at least thirty (30) different categories. Refer to your purchased certification packet for suggestions.

9. Complete the Basic Knowledge Self-Assessment Tool.

10. Read and sign the DONA International Code of Ethics and the DONA International Standards of Practice.

11. Provide current contact information (name, phone, e-mail and relationship) for one (1) client and one (1) birth professional who have agreed to serve as a phone reference for you. The references will be checked by the Certification Committee.

12. Submit a typewritten essay (500 - 1,000 words) on the value and purpose of labour support. Refer to your purchased certification packet for details.

13. Pay the certification application fee on-line in the DONA Boutique or by check or money order in US funds.

Cost: USD\$110.00

14. Verify that you are a current member of DONA International. Join now if you are not already a current member.

Cost: USD\$100.00 (1-year membership)

15. Mail the originals of all required documents to the DONA International Home Office and keep a copy of all submitted documentation for your own records.

Once certified, it is the DONA certified doula's responsibility to maintain continuous membership with DONA International and to recertify every three (3) years. Please see the Membership Policy (PDF) and the Recertification Policy (PDF) for more information.

Summary of Costs:

Please note: Australia is **Group A** in pricing (prices in US dollars unless otherwise indicated)

DONA International Birth Doula Training with Jenn Fontaine AUD\$750 (early bird registrations before August 1st) or AUD\$800 (if you register AFTER August 1st)

DONA International Membership fees

One-Year Membership - Group A: USD\$100.00

Two-Year Membership - Group A: USD\$190.00

Three-Year Membership - Group A: USD\$280.00

Certification Packets

Group A Non-Member Certification packet purchase fee: USD\$50.00

Group A Member Certification packet purchase fee: USD\$40.00

Certification Applications

Group A Postpartum AND Birth Doula Certification application fee: USD\$110.00

Birth Doula Required Reading List

Costs vary depending on which books you need to purchase.

Important note: *After the workshop you can call yourself a doula and start attending births. To become a DONA International certified birth doula, you must complete all the steps to certification listed above.*