



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\$975 (early bird - registration must be received at least 6 weeks before the start of your chosen training) or AUD\$1,175 if you register LESS than 6 weeks before the start of your chosen training.

2. **Read at least five (5) books from the [Birth Doula Required Reading List](#)** (PDF) (Page 9 and 10 in the guide) and the [DONA International Position Paper: The Birth Doula's Contribution to Modern Maternity Care](#). <https://www.dona.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/DONA-Birth-Position-Paper-FINAL.pdf>
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 labour and delivery as a registered midwife or nurse midwife.

Cost: Included in workshop

5. **Submit one (1) of the following: *YOU are doing A right now! YAY!***

- A. **Breastfeeding class observation Form. Attend a breastfeeding class that is a minimum of three (3) hours. This workshop must be taught by an educator with recognized breastfeeding credentials**
- B. Proof of completion of lactation consultant, breastfeeding peer counselor or breastfeeding educator training.
- C. Complete the DONA approved online breastfeeding course <https://www.lactationtraining.com/lactation-management-for-doulas> Either one of these courses are good.

Cost: Included in workshop

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) <https://www.dona.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/client-confidentiality-form.pdf>
- B. DONA International Birth Data Collection Form <https://www.dona.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Birth-Doula-Data-Collection-Form.pdf>
- C. Complete in full the appropriate birth record sheets for each birth (refer to your purchased certification packet)
- D. Good evaluation (no less than 3s) from your client, the laboring mother (PDF) <https://www.dona.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Evaluation-of-Services-Birth.pdf>
- E. Good evaluation (no less than 3s) from the primary care provider; plus each physician evaluation must be accompanied by a nurse/midwife evaluation. (PDF) <https://www.dona.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Evaluation-of-Services-Birth.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. Ask one client to fill out the more detailed **Client evaluation form**. This needs to be in a sealed envelope from client and you submit it to DONA with your packet still sealed

12. Meet with a health care professional (anyone who works with pregnant, birthing or postpartum people) and tell them about the doula. Have them fill out the **Perinatal Health care Reference Form**

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

14. Watch one of the DONA approved **Business webinars** <https://www.dona.org/continuing-education/business-webinars/> There are 4 to choose from **\$20 USD**

13. Pay the certification application fee on-line in the DONA Boutique or by check or money order in US funds. (DONA boutique <https://www.dona.org/dona-products/>)

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:

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

DONA International Birth Doula Training with Jenn Fontaine

AUD \$975 (early bird registrations) or AUD \$1,175 (full rate).

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.

Refund Policy

Once you have registered and paid for this course, no refunds will be granted. If you would like to transfer your registration to the next training, a \$50 administration fee will apply.

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.*