

We asked respondents if they had any further thoughts or comments? Is this trivial and silly? Is it important for students to have good advice on etiquette? If not from the UK/US, how does it work where you are?

PhD qualified UK - non-professorial faculty position (lecturer, senior lecturer, reader)

"Useful. Strange that no such guide exists already. Good luck with it."

Other country, PhD qualified, title does not include "professor"

"I felt some of the questions were ambiguous.

For example, "What is the best way for an applicant to approach you?" is not the same as "How would you advise a relative to approach somebody else?".

For the last question, a person's use of overfamiliar language "would affect my impression of the way they might interact" as a matter of definition. However, it wouldn't bother me.

On a more substantial point, I suspect that the differences here are generational more than they are geographical. Young professors care less about salutation etiquette than their older colleagues -- on both sides of the Atlantic. On this point, I would consider myself young-ish (age 41). Perhaps the survey could be amended to gather information on respondents' ages.

Best of luck with the rest of the study."

PhD qualified UK - non-professorial faculty position (lecturer, senior lecturer, reader)

"It is important for students to demonstrate their knowledge of appropriate register and tone. It indicates a level of thought that suggests care goes into what they do, including their work, and how they present themselves. 'Hey' is an awful term that is entirely inappropriate in professional setting."

PhD qualified UK - non-professorial faculty position (lecturer, senior lecturer, reader)

"Re: last qn: it does depend on the 'overfamiliarity'- if language is sloppy & slang-strewn, that is bad. If the sender is simply being informal, that is not an issue.

Re: Being addressed to attend conference. Dear First Name, to me, indicates more intimacy and actual thought- as if the sender had thought about who they were emailing. As I usually use 'X.X' as my initials (no F name), it shows they've tried to find out.

I always, now, email colleagues I don't know with the overture, Dear First Name. It is more cordial and is how I would like to be addressed by colleagues (not necessarily potential students or students)

Being referred to as Professor, when I'm not, doesn't bother me- it tickles me and vicariously flattering.

Best of luck with the survey- let me know what you find (n.martin [at] mdx [dot] ac [dot] uk"

PhD qualified - US other non-professorial teaching/research position (title does not include "professor")

"It is important for students to display good etiquette, with a carefully respectful tone. Addressees will have widely varying expectations and so it is, in my opinion, best to start with the most formal mode of address when writing to a stranger. That will rarely create a bad impression. Things can then evolve from there."

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PhD qualified - US other non-professorial teaching/research position (title does not include "professor")

"I personally find it a bit silly - I did my Dphil in the UK and now work in a US institute, but other people here seem to take it a bit more seriously. I think in a first instance, talking to another academic, it's polite to refer to them as "Dr X" and then move quickly to first name,

especially after a beer or so. Students should not be overly-familiar in the first instance, but surely this goes beyond science and into polite interactions with strangers in any professional context? If in doubt, surely it's best to err on the side of formality?"

PhD qualified UK - non-professorial research position

"Most academics I know really don't care about titles, but an incorrect approach just reads as slapdash and lazy - not the kind of impression you want to make."

PhD qualified UK - non-professorial research position

"The difference between UK and USA terms of address is confusing even when you've been in academia for a while. In particular, American academics seem to be initially over-formal, but later can come across as short, brusque, or even rude (although I think it's more to do with efficiency). The use of "please" is interesting: my American supervisor saw it as a verging-on-frustrated order, whereas I, as a hapless English PhD student, peppered my emails with "please" so in a futile effort to be polite.

Really interesting research! Would love to know what you find."

PhD qualified - UK Professor

"I actually think that this is very important, and if in doubt people should err on the side of formality, because it is a matter of simple politeness. I never object to being called Dear Professor X or Dear Dr X, whereas a chatty greeting from someone I don't know tends to annoy me, or make me worry about the quality of what is to come in the rest of the email- I am often right. There is also an extra issue for women academics. I am happy with being called Ms, though it suggests a lack of research into my real title, but I get very annoyed at being called Miss or Mrs because it seems to me to be a form of disrespect for my hard won qualifications. In some cases, when done by men of a certain age I suspect it is deliberate denigration, as if they cannot cope with the idea of a female full professor. So at all costs it is vital that students do not use a title which is not an academic one. I would rather be called by my first name than Mrs X. Of course I hasten to add that after the first introductory email I will ask people to call me by my first name, students included. I find it rather odd when US-based students carry on calling me Prof X even when I have asked them not to!"

PhD qualified UK - non-professorial faculty position (lecturer, senior lecturer, reader)

"Worst emails say " Hey Firstname, I've read a paper if yours. Please explain what u mean by the term X" when defining X is what happens in paper intro"

PhD qualified UK - non-professorial research position

"I would use Dr/Professor as appropriate when contacting someone I didn't know because I know others find alternatives upsetting. When receiving e-mails myself I try not to care about this and focus on the content of the e-mail. I think this hierarchy/status issue is extremely unhelpful in academia and doesn't exist (in my experience anyway) to the same extent in other areas of science. It can be a barrier to communication and discussion between scientists at different stages in their career. It adds to the 'them' and 'us' culture between students and staff which doesn't help students/earlier career scientists take responsibility for our own research/development of the field of science and in staff failing to disseminate their experience/knowledge and benefiting from others. It seems to vary from university to university I am happy to say the people in the university where I work now don't seem to have this attitude. We are all scientists and the science and trying to contribute to it, facilitate discussion and progress of it is what should matter not who is doing it/perceived status. I think status issues also add to the view that scientists are arrogant which is what puts non-scientists I talk to off. Sorry that turned in to a bit of a rant, I hope I haven't given the impression that I don't respect professors, scientists who have contributed a lot to science. I do think that deserves respect but not to the point where its preventing communication/collaboration. Maybe opening title does show that you have respect, its nice to do it but it shouldn't affect outcomes."

PhD qualified UK - non-professorial faculty position (lecturer, senior lecturer, reader)

"I think that emphasising academics, especially professors, in such a formal hierarchy is not good for science. However, I'm sure there are plenty of (pompous) academics out there who get upset if they are not addressed appropriately."

Non PhD qualified, academic/university setting

"Not silly at all. First impressions count. I used to teach email etiquette explicitly, to foreign students and to UK undergraduates, and told them to think of the audience, i.e. the intended reader. The rule of thumb is "be conservative in what you send, but liberal in what you

accept".

By the way, I hope your statistical analysis pulls out those who ticked one of the last two boxes in the first question. It may not be correct to address me as Dr, but rare is the curmudgeon who minds a little inaccurate flattery on first approach."

PhD qualified UK - non-professorial faculty position (lecturer, senior lecturer, reader)

"Personally, I think this is important and a source of irritation as I feel informality sends the wrong message out. I have a PhD student who has insisted since starting signing off emails with BW (best wishes). This is a constant source of irritation as it suggests he can't be bothered to finish off politely. This reflects rather well our relationship which feels one sided & I have experienced inappropriate behaviour."

Other country, PhD qualified, title includes "professor"

"I work in Britain, but come from Germany where I would formally be addressed as Professor Dr x, which I find much too formal. So I am glad I am in Britain where I am just Prof x in formal circumstances, and y (first name) in normal life with students and colleagues alike. However, I am mildly irritated when Americans address me as Dr...in formal discourse."

PhD qualified UK - non-professorial research position

"I think if I am incorrectly addressed as "Professor" in the opening of an email then I can only assume that the potential candidate has not done sufficient background reading into myself and my research activities. I think that after one or two emails then it is fine to drop the formalities and address the potential supervisor by his/her first name.

I'm British and received my PhD in the UK but I work in the USA. I completely avoid addressing an assistant or associate professor as "Professor" and reserve that entirely for a fully-tenured professor. I've found that, in the USA, addressing a faculty member as "Dr" rather than "Professor" is much less of a faux pas than it would be to address a professor in the UK as "Dr"."

PhD qualified UK - non-professorial research position

"I'm not offended by over-familiar language, but it makes me think twice about the student/applicant -- it suggests to me that they're not taking the email exchange/position advertised seriously, and THAT is what concerns me."

PhD qualified UK - non-professorial faculty position (lecturer, senior lecturer, reader)

"I think it is important that students learn about etiquette. All too often they seem not to care much about these sorts of things. Yet, the impression they make can be affected very much by the way they communicate with others (especially people they have never met before), even if only by email."

PhD qualified UK - non-professorial research position

"Good general advice is to start off very formally (this also goes for the email sign off), and follow the lead given in the reply to your email - typically "Dear Prof. <surname>" might become "Hi <firstname>". I don't think many people would be offended by an initial formal approach."

PhD qualified - US assistant professor

"This is absolutely not trivial. Graduate students need to understand that professional etiquette is very important. Ultimately, I ask all of my colleagues and students to address me by my first name. I wouldn't be horribly put off by a student who addressed me by my first name the first time we met; however, I do know several colleagues who would be irritated and annoyed at students who assume overfamiliarity. No matter how much our discipline is filled with people who want to be causal, we are still professionals and graduate students (especially when they are looking for jobs) need to understand this."

PhD qualified - US other professorial teaching/research position (title includes "professor")

"I believe this is important. Respect for rank in the academy has been eroding. Many of the problems I hear from fellow faculty around grading and such could be helped by a proper respect for the professoriate."

PhD qualified UK - non-professorial research position

"My answer to question 1 would be very different depending on whether I was answer the question in bold or the (e.g.) question in grey underneath it. I'm perfectly happy to be addressed as "Dear <firstname>" by anyone, including students I've never met, but I know

*some people are much less relaxed so I'd advise "Dear Dr. <surname>" to a stranger. When writing to a fellow professional I've never met I'm happy to use <firstname> *unless* for whatever reason I have the impression they might be a bit full of themselves.*

I don't think very many people would take offense at a student using their first name these days (in the English-speaking world; France e.g. would be very different--professors are, to use my terms above, "a bit full of themselves", ditto Italy, Germany). But I think most people would prefer "dear" to "hi", and "hey" feels a bit too familiar even to me."

Non PhD qualified, academic/university setting

"Dear Professor..."

Use this for anyone of a higher academic rank than you."

PhD qualified UK - non-professorial faculty position (lecturer, senior lecturer, reader)

"The Prof/Dr thing isn't that important, but signals whether they have made an effort to find out which you are."

Other country, PhD qualified, title does not include "professor"

"It's manners to use title + surname on first email. The if you sign off with your first name (and you should), they can then switch to using your first name and generally copy your level of formality. As long as the tone/content is polite and appropriate though really- have a feeling it's a 'generational thing' and lower levels of formality will become the norm whether academics like this or not. My guess is people are being casual because they haven't been taught any different, not because they are being deliberately rude or are aware others may view it as inappropriate. I would also think it was rude of the academic to insist on their title being used in person by email after the introduction, however in Germany/Switzerland, sometimes PhDs and postdocs are never given permission to use first names with their supervisor (so always using the formal pronouns/verbs). I'm an Australian working in the UK."

PhD qualified UK - non-professorial faculty position (lecturer, senior lecturer, reader)

*"It's important. But these aren't the worst examples I have personally received. More annoying are Mrs as a title or Sir / madam - I have had both as a woman ; first name spelled wrongly; wrong university in application email (have had this for jobs and PhD apps); just your surname (dear Surname) or title and first name (dear Dr Firstname); smiley emotion after greeting. I have also had inappropriate tone in emails from students I know, the most recent being an email which following my addition of data to *help* students with an assignment, had the first line "I am not impressed! I have already started this assignment"....."*

PhD qualified UK - non-professorial faculty position (lecturer, senior lecturer, reader)

"Interesting survey!"

PhD qualified - US assistant professor

"I grew up in US, but did my PhD and postdoc in UK. I noticed this distinction immediately. Nearly all undergrads in the US may call their teachers 'prof', because some of them may not have doctorates, and it can be hard to know/remember if they are a Dr. or not. Thus, 'prof' is the safer title because if they are teaching you, they are undisputably your prof. Postdocs and sometimes even PhD students could be called prof if they were teaching and the undergraduate was not too familiar with the academic system.

Now, as an assistant professor, I see that there is more awareness in North America among faculty about the full prof distinction, but it is not consistently used as a form of address for only full professors the way it is in the UK."

PhD qualified - UK Professor

"In the UK, having a PhD gives you the title "Dr". But the title "professor" is reserved for the most senior individuals in an institution who have a professorial post (the other more junior faculty posts would be lecturer, senior lecturer, or reader, with senior lecturer/reader broadly equivalent to associate professor in the USA).

I don't think that this is trivial at all. I'm always amazed at the number of potential students or staff members who write to me with e.g. "Hiya Firstname" ... Application binned. It isn't so much that I insist on being called "Professor". It is just that if I have 100 applications in front of me for a studentship or RA post, then why should I consider those applicants who haven't even bothered to think about how they should address the person that they are

writing to?"

PhD qualified non-academic setting

"I'm afraid I do find this a little trivial. I have a PhD but also have a swimming certificate and I don't expect people to address me by mentioning either."

PhD qualified UK - non-professorial faculty position (lecturer, senior lecturer, reader)

"I don't think it's trivial. There is sort of an unwritten rule that you address people as Dr. or Prof. on first interaction, and then wait to see how they sign off. When they use their first name you can too. Unfortunately, as this rule is unwritten, students don't usually know until they make a mistake."

PhD qualified - US (full) professor

"Note that you keep using "Prof" as opposed to "Professor". The latter is much better (and I rarely see the former)."

PhD qualified - US assistant professor

"Keep in mind the multiple factors in play. As a junior tenure-track female faculty member (who happens to be mixed race and in a feminized discipline), I find the more overly familiar approaches are from white male students, often from relatively affluent backgrounds. Occasionally this signals that they are going to challenge or try to undermine me professionally. I try not to be combative or hierarchal, but we cannot pretend that for many students and faculty members, a PhD, publications, or teaching experience will outweigh demographic categories. I advise people to err on the side of formality, and wait until invited to use more familiar greetings.

You missed my true pet peeves for first contact via email:

Hey (nothing else)

Dear Miss/Mrs <surname> it express the need for a title but denies my academic credentials"

PhD qualified, UK, other university/academic setting (e.g., editor)

"What annoys me more is if I am addressed as Mrs or Miss. Ms is generally fine, I often use that rather than Dr in situations where my PhD isn't relevant (my marital status is never relevant). Ms does rankle slightly if in a professional context where someone should know I have a PhD though. Mr is also inappropriate as I am female! Dr has the advantage of being gender non specific so it is likely to offend few people.

I'd be surprised if a UK professor was offended by being addressed as Dr and would think they were too sensitive or into hierarchy."

PhD qualified UK - non-professorial faculty position (lecturer, senior lecturer, reader)

"I'm much more likely to respond quickly to a more formal (i.e. polite) approach."

PhD qualified UK - non-professorial faculty position (lecturer, senior lecturer, reader)

*"I always think carefully about how I address fellow academics, and if I'm not sure of their title I try to find out. It therefore annoys me when students don't take the same care - it makes me think they're lazy or thoughtless, neither of which is good. Although I don't think I'm unusually preoccupied with getting respect from students or other academics, I *earned* that title, it means something in academia, it annoys me when people swap it for e.g. Mr."*

PhD qualified - US associate professor

"I don't care if I am addressed by my first name, last name, earned degree, or professional title, as long as it is not "Mr." That's factually incorrect.

I am surprised you didn't include "Mr. / Ms / Mrs. / Miss" in your list of potential greetings. I know many of my female colleagues who are highly aware that their male colleagues are called "Doctor" or "Professor", while they are called "Miss" or "Ma'am" or something similar."

PhD qualified UK - non-professorial research position

"Not trivial and silly simply because people do react to this stuff, and it's worth decent scientists being well equipped to avoid what is essentially an unimportant mistake. Would definitely be worth checking out in other countries too.

Re: the last question - it would depend how overfamiliar the greeting was.

Also being called Prof when you're not a prof yet is sweet but also gives the impression that they haven't checked you out properly! I would also expect fellow academics to use my first

name. I think there is a lot of understanding for different countries having different customs however.

Another question worth checking out would be second emails - e.g. I would expect to sign a reply to a first email from anyone using my first name, and would expect the reply to my reply to use my first name too. I suspect this is different in Germany and Switzerland however and would be considered as disrespectful.

Good work and looking forward to the results!"

PhD qualified UK - non-professorial faculty position (lecturer, senior lecturer, reader)

"I think it is important to write emails to people who you don't know as if you're writing a letter. I find text-message language, limited use of capitals and punctuation, and too much familiarity, all very irritating."

PhD qualified UK - non-professorial faculty position (lecturer, senior lecturer, reader)

"I'm originally from Portugal, where these titles seem to have a higher importance than in the UK. In Portugal, anyone with an academic position is a Professor and that must be the way they are addressed."

Other country, PhD qualified, title includes "professor"

"Canadian"

PhD qualified UK - non-professorial faculty position (lecturer, senior lecturer, reader)

"I'm comfortable about being emailed by my first name but I do get a bit annoyed when students choose to email me by my title and get it wrong (I often get Ms Surname, Mrs Surname or Prof Surname, none of which are right) - to me that suggests they haven't been paying attention. Mrs Surname is the worst as I have never been married and don't expect to be!"

PhD qualified - US other non-professorial teaching/research position (title does not include "professor")

"The issue is not that I really care if a student were to call me by my first name. However it does indicate a certain amount of sloppiness to not note the cultural norms and stick with them. Inappropriate etiquette often, though not always, correlates with other larger issues. Inappropriate requests and some level of "cluelessness"."

PhD qualified - UK Professor

"Don't think it's that important, but also not trivial. When emailing an academic (e.g. journal editor) I'll always address them as Professor unless I'm sure they're 'just' a PhD (if I don't know then I check their dept. web pages). It would be very sensible for students to do the same."

PhD qualified - US assistant professor

"As a US college professor at an undergraduate institution, but not currently a researcher, Dr. and Professor are pretty much interchangeable in my mind. I work with a lot of professors who only have Masters degrees, so "Professor" can be used to indicate respect and give a title to those teachers, rather than "Mr." Or "Mrs.""

Other country, PhD qualified, title does not include "professor"

"I'm not a terribly dominant or hierarchical creature, so I'm fine with it mostly. My concern is mainly with making sure there is appropriate distance, since I am most definitely my students peer (as I will have to have the freedom to give the person the grade they have earned, and not a friendly grade).

It is an interesting topic, especially in Europe, since there is a great deal of variation in what is considered proper formality."

PhD qualified UK - non-professorial faculty position (lecturer, senior lecturer, reader)

"While I think on the whole it's better for unfamiliar students/academics to open a conversation fairly formally (Dear Dr Surname), I'm not too bothered if they use Dear Firstname (which is possibly better than Hi Dr Surname). What really bugs me is Dear Miss/Mrs/Ms (especially the first two!) - using a non-professional title seems more discourteous to me than using my first name, since it suggests they haven't bothered to do the slightest research on either my title or how academics are addressed in a professional context."

PhD qualified - US assistant professor

"It's important to note I'm Canadian and did my undergrad there. Prof is a term of high

respect that I wouldn't even use for all full profs here in the US. I would correct you if I was called that, but have no issue with Dr or firstname at greeting. Once know me, I insist on firstname, including with undergrads in my lab. I have found my colleagues in other departments (eg Education) are more formal than me (Psychology) and do Dr all the time."

PhD qualified - US other non-professorial teaching/research position (title does not include "professor")

*"In the U.S., tenure-track and tenured faculty at all ranks (Asst., Assoc., Full, Endowed, Chairs, etc.) unambiguously qualify as "Professor X." You would *never* address someone as "Dear Assistant Professor X"; it's just "Dear Professor X." However, when I list my references, I include full formal title, including endowed chairs and assist. prof. and everything in between, as appropriate. Similarly, in writing a formal cover letter, I'd probably use the person's full title in the heading at the top, but use "Professor X" in the salutation, e.g.:*

First Last

Assistant Professor

Whatever University

123 Elm Street

Everytown, State, 01234

Dear Professor Last:

For academics with Ph.D.s who are not tenure-track or tenured (e.g., postdoctoral fellows, those given the title "lecturer" (which means something different in the U.S than in the U.K.) it's more polite to say "Dear Dr. X" than "Dear Mr./Ms. X." It's technically incorrect to say "Dear Professor X," but no one would be offended by that; I suppose there's a small chance that I might think that the writer hadn't bothered to research me or wasn't wise to the ways of academia, and either of these might mildly put me off, depending on the content, but "elevating" me to Prof. would obviously not offend me.

*I don't think that in the U.S., "Professor" is unambiguously higher-status than "Dr." And I think it unlikely that anyone, even a full professor, would be *offended* at being referred to as "Dr." That said, tenure-track/tenured academics are more likely to be referred to as "Professor." In part, this may be because "Professor" is a much more universal title, encompassing tenure stream faculty at all levels, including those without Ph.D.s (e.g., most law professors who have only J.D. (those with a Juris Doctorate are never referred to as "Dr."), business school professors with only an MBA, creative writers with only MFAs). I would advise would-be academics addressing any U.S. academic whose title includes the word professor to use "Dear Professor X" when addressing them for the first time."*

PhD qualified UK - non-professorial research position

"Titles are not hugely important, but first impressions are. If I email someone I do not know I am relatively formal and think about how to do it. Ideally, students should do just the same."

PhD qualified UK - non-professorial research position

"I'm not personally bothered by the form of address, but I am much more likely to take a polite and well written request seriously."

PhD qualified UK - non-professorial faculty position (lecturer, senior lecturer, reader)

"In many ways these things are trivial and silly, but the way we use or misuse these terms may be diagnostic of other behaviours. I have a phd, but don't mind if people do not preface my name with Dr. However, it annoys me more if they use Mr. in its place - I would prefer someone use the correct title or not use one at all. If someone misuses a title it may well indicate they haven't taken the time to find out what your correct position is, or may be indirectly suggesting that they do not care what your position is; in either case, it's not an ideal saturating point."

PhD qualified UK - non-professorial research position

"Forms of address in letters and emails are prescribed by wider society, and anyone who is unaware of these conventions is going to run into trouble whether within academia or outside it. (Would anyone apply to a regular job with "Hey <Firstname>") Addressing me as "Professor" tells me that the writer doesn't know who I am because I'm not a professor, whereas failing to use my title in a context where it would be appropriate is slightly off-putting, but not actually offensive."

PhD qualified - US other non-professorial teaching/research position (title does not include "professor")

"Most frustrating is how often students call male PhDs "Dr." but female PhDs are called "Ms./Mrs." Sexism is still a problem, esp. in some fields."

PhD qualified UK - non-professorial research position

"I would expect the use of relevant title in first instance but for it to be ditched thereafter. So, I would email someone using Dr X or Prof Y but drop to their first name in any further correspondence. I would address someone in person when first meeting as Dr X or Prof Y and expect them to say 'call me FIRSTNAME' in response. If they didn't I would anyway. The American insistence on using 'PhD' after names is, from a UK perspective, far more of a faux pas than their misuse of Professor. In an age of the internet calling a UK academic a professor when they are in fact a Dr simply shows they have not bothered looking you up properly (with allowances for individuals, particularly students, whose cultures are highly status orientated who will have looked you up but are still legitimately unsure). American academics should know better but at least when they make this error we have the reward of judging them. ;-)"

Non PhD qualified, academic/university setting

"I don't think it's silly. Being called "Prof" really bothers me as I am in the UK and while I teach, I'm a month away from submitting my PhD thesis. It either makes me think that the student isn't aware of how titles work in a UK academic setting or that they're doing some weird form of flattery by bumping everyone up a title or two.

Addressing me as Dr is closer and I'd rather someone universally applied that to all academic/teaching staff than used Mr/Ms/Miss for all teaching staff! I've also had Dr from conference organising committees when accepting an abstract. I suspect Dr is used as a "safe" title in academia - chances are whoever you're addressing either has or is working towards a doctorate, whereas "Prof" is more specialised and prestigious here. However, if a student interested in working with me specifically addresses me as "Dr" I'd wonder how well they've done their research - if they've researched my academic interests then they should have found that I haven't yet obtained my doctorate."

Other country, PhD qualified, title does not include "professor"

"Australia is more like the UK, so Prof is reserved quite senior academics. But if I am writing to a senior member of the academic community, I will usually use "Prof", even if they are an Associate Professor. With easy access to the internet, it only takes a quick search to get titles right, so it can appear lazy if a potential student hasn't bothered to look up correct titles."

PhD qualified non-academic setting

"Etiquette for addressing a stranger is important, although if the content of the communique is interesting/useful/professional, I would just have a word with the students after interacting with them to save future grief. My take on using first names is that once they have collected any kind of data with me, they may use my first name because then we are colleagues."

PhD qualified UK - non-professorial faculty position (lecturer, senior lecturer, reader)

"The worst form of address is to fail to use the surname at all. Respected Professor etc. I jsut trash these without reading them.

I get lots of such emails and do not recall any Hi, Hey, or use of my first name alone.

Prof is safe, if they are Prof no offence is caused, if they are not they might be flattered and probably not offended"

Other country, PhD qualified, title does not include "professor"

"Using the correct title shows respect. They usually become first-name relationships very quickly, but in the first instance a new PhD candidate needs to show me that they appreciate what obtaining the title of Dr or Prof really requires before I would invest my time in helping them to achieve it themselves."

PhD qualified non-academic setting

"I'm from UK but live in France. The titles Prof & Dr are not used in France, just Monsieur and Madame or Mademoiselle.

I think hierachy is old-fashioned if it is based on titles. If you meet someone for the first time you are strangers and you don't know where the relationship will lead, so you should treat

each other as equals. You could well be making assumptions about someone because they don't have a title. I am more perturbed by using informal greetings like 'Hi' and 'Hey' which are overfamiliar and too informal."

PhD qualified UK - non-professorial research position

"It isn't the most important thing (at least to me) but if get a "Hey Firstname" from a potential PhD student, the email will most likely be ignored."

Other country, PhD qualified, title includes "professor"

"No it's neither trivial or silly. It may be an indication to age, although I like to think I am a young 46! When I was an undergraduate (in UK) I would never consider anything but using Dr X, but of course this would be face-to-face or by letter if in applications (or indeed when talking about a lecturer to another student). As an Associate Professor in Canada I was a bit surprised to be called Prof. X since I was not a full prof and actually preferred what I'd been used to as a seasoned independent research fellow/academic in the UK i.e. Dr X. I got used to Prof though when I realised it was a teaching accreditation as far as the student was concerned. However, one huge issue I had in Canada was far too many "Hey first name" or even "Hey Prof!" emails even when the students were asking for considerable kindness from me i.e. changing exam marks that I would never do except of course when I was in the wrong.

Anyway, there you have it. It's just simply politeness and no different to any other area of professional work. I would always email someone (without a PhD or who wasn't a physician) I don't know as Dear Mr or Mrs X or use the appropriate title. Never ever first names. I use the exact same as a professional scientist and Associate Editor of a journal which means I am writing regularly to unknown scientists. First time, Dr or Prof as appropriate and then, IF they reply signing off with first name then it's fine, in my position to switch to first names. If I was emailing an unknown student I would sign off in the same way, with my first name, but I would expect them to continue to use Dr or Prof X. I am now a full Prof in France but I no not mind Prof or Dr. One additional comment is the oddity that in France PhDs do not get to use Dr in their title outside their academic lives. Even within universities it is always M. or Ms. or Mme.

Finally, in my Canadian lab none of my postgrads (from the Middle East and South Asia) would never call me by my first name even though I continually requested them to! They simply told me repeatedly that they thought it was inappropriate. So, in those countries at least the customs are even stricter.

Sorry for typos, typed fast to get point over. Interested to see results in due course."

PhD qualified - UK Professor

"I don't think it's trivial or silly: I am uncomfortably aware that mores change over time and I might be becoming an old fuddy duddy, but I feel that old-fashioned things like polite language and writing, and nice attire, show respect for the situation and for the person you are interacting with. I always show respect to people I look up to by dressing well if I have to meet them, and addressing them respectfully in correspondence. So if someone doesn't do that for me, I feel they don't respect me, and by extension my position and my experience. Like I say, it's possibly old-fashioned. Some people think it's irrelevant - I don't have a problem with that. The people who think it's irrelevant can all go and work with each other :)"

PhD qualified UK - non-professorial research position

"I'm in the UK, but we had a German professor who was on sabbatical visiting my dept. He had 2 doctorates and was a professor. In the UK he was routinely addressed as Prof John Smith, which irritated him. In Germany he was used to being addressed as Herr Professor Dr Dr John Smith (even on emails and normal mail)"

PhD qualified - US assistant professor

"In the US there are millions of adjuncts and contingent faculty who work part-time and not on tenure-track. They are treated differently by school administrations in that they receive no health insurance, no grant money for their research, but receive 1/10 of paycheck and students often know that. So these students may discriminate contingent faculty members. Lumping together "assistant professor" and "adjunct assistant professor" in a survey like yours may not produce an accurate picture of the perception of these titles by academics in the US."

PhD qualified UK - non-professorial faculty position (lecturer, senior lecturer, reader)

"Important because I want students to have thought about what they are doing before they hit the send button!"

PhD qualified - US (full) professor

"You didn't ask, but even though I'd expect a grad student candidate to address me as Dr or Prof the first time, I would reply to the email by signing my first name."

PhD qualified UK - non-professorial faculty position (lecturer, senior lecturer, reader)

"No it's not trivial, in order for people to be polite they need to be informed."

PhD qualified UK - non-professorial faculty position (lecturer, senior lecturer, reader)

"Very important for students to have good advice on etiquette."

*Other thoughts: Academics in the UK are very stiff about titles as compared with US academics. Dr <Last name> is often used by US students to address e.g. assistant and associate professors because Dr is their highest *degree*. Prof is sometimes used for holders of endowed chairs but not as a rule."*

PhD qualified UK - non-professorial research position

"I wouldn't describe it as trivial or silly, but it's certainly not something that should keep people up at night. The proper behaviour shows an awareness of the situation one is in and to whom one is talking. It's also about respect as well as formality to an extent -- when I mention another academic in an e-mail or similar, I will tend to refer to them as Dr/Prof <surname>, even if both I and the person I am writing to is on first name terms with them, as it is at least semi-formal (as it is a recorded paper trail). If someone can't get it right when they really have the chance to (like on the covering letter when applying for a job), I do think it undermines them, because it demonstrates they haven't really listened. This can work both ways; various students at the University I currently work for have no understanding of normal forms of address in the UK, using forms of address that are either much too formal or informal, or just mangled. This has a very strong correlation with students who aren't very good."

Having said that, I am confident that it's no more formal than any other formal or semi-formal situation--applying for a job anywhere, starting a letter with Dear... the right title just shows that the applicant is serious. Why would you do anything else unless you didn't know?"

Non PhD qualified, academic/university setting

"I am an American first generation college student. During my search for graduate programs to apply for, I contacted a professor in the UK to inquire if she would be interested in taking me on as a graduate student. As I was ignorant to the title of professor, possibly because I am the first college graduate in my family, I addressed her as Dr. _____. She corrected me gently on our second or third email, saying in plain language that in the UK full professors are called Professor, not Doctor. This was a bit off-putting at the time, but I knew this person was fundamentally kind and took it as an attempt at mentoring rather than reprimanding. She is currently my supervisor and is quite lovely as a person."

I think there needs to be more awareness among professors that first generation college students, who have not implicitly or explicitly learned how to address academics, might fumble at this when seeking out potential supervisors."

Other country, PhD qualified, title does not include "professor"

"Australia"

Non PhD qualified, academic/university setting

"Etiquette is relevant and important. Using the right title indicates that you have done your homework and that you know whom you are talking to."

PhD qualified - US (full) professor

"Not trivial. But I think in US and Canada, Dr. or Prof. is fine for any level of professor. What I get often that is irritating is Mrs or Miss!"

PhD qualified UK - non-professorial faculty position (lecturer, senior lecturer, reader)

"An interesting set of questions. After reading an article on the BBC website last year, I altered my salutation from something fairly casual (hi/hello Dr.) to 'Dear Dr....'. One point of uncertainty is the US to UK difference in what constitutes a prof. Do assistant profs wish to hear the salutation 'dear prof xxx'? Or, like their UK counterparts, would they expect 'dr'? As a rule, I tend to use 'prof' if in any way unsure about their seniority."

PhD qualified UK - non-professorial research position

"It may be an age thing – although a newly-minted PhD, I'm in my fifties. I grew up at a time when first names were only used by invitation, so it still feels wrong to me to address someone I don't know by their first name – my instinct is always to use Ms, Mr, Professor, whatever.

It's just polite to ensure the other person is feeling comfortable with how you are addressing them. Better to start more formal and work from there than risk irritating someone by using a first name when they don't expect it. One can always say "call me ... " but harder to say "actually, I'd rather you called me Dr ..."."

PhD qualified UK - non-professorial faculty position (lecturer, senior lecturer, reader)

"It is fine to make contact out of the blue and I would always respond. I don't correct pro to dr until it matters eg the conversation continues beyond one exchange. Yes courtesy does matter. And kisses after their name is not a good idea either!"

PhD qualified - US (full) professor

"I may be extra sensitive. My grandfather was a physician, and my mother taught me it was wrong for non-medical professionals to be called "doctor."

On the other hand, I try to keep in mind the worlds of H. L. Mencken, The American Language, 1961, Supplement 1, p. 528.

*"In the Baltimore of my boyhood, c. 1890, the following, inter alia, were called *professors*: colored hostlers who bit off the tails of puppies, bootblacks serving in barber-shops, rubbers of baseball-players, tattooers, Indian-club swingers, painters of black eyes, owners and operators of rat terriers, and distinguished crab-soup and oyster-flitter cooks. During Prohibition days the functionary who went about reinforcing near-beer with shots of alcohol or ether was first called a *professor*, but after a while, for some reason unknown, his designation was changed to *doctor*.""*

PhD qualified non-academic setting

"This is trivial and silly, AND important -- because enough people make enough fuss about this kind of thing that it is an issue, and because it's the kind of thing that worries "junior" people -- job applicants, intending grad students, etc etc. Well researched advice on this could put a lot of relatively pointless worrying to rest."

PhD qualified UK - other non-professorial teaching position

"As a newly-minted PhD, I remember being annoyed when more senior academics would sign emails with only their initials. The closing of an email is the perfect place to signal to the recipient how they should address you in future, but an automatic or abbreviated signature offers no guidance."

Other country, PhD qualified, title does not include "professor"

"In Australia, we typically only use 'Professor' for someone formally given this title by a university, and for others use 'Dr'. But I don't think that people I know with the 'Professor' title would be bothered by someone addressing them as 'Dr', and generally we'd use 'Dr' rather than 'Professor' for Associate Professors."

PhD qualified UK - non-professorial research position

"Pls share your results."

PhD qualified UK - non-professorial faculty position (lecturer, senior lecturer, reader)

"It drives me crazy

The worse is students emailing from the university I teach at and not even saying Hi1st name or even hi but just starting cold and then ending with no signature or even a name (or possibly a common 1st name) as if I know the university ids (from which emails come) of all out 100s of students!"

Other country, PhD qualified, title does not include "professor"

"I am German. In Germany, the doctor title officially becomes part of your surname and can be entered in your national ID. Most people do not use it for themselves or to address others in everyday language except for physicians (Herr Doktor or Frau Doktor - sometimes even without the surname - similar to the use in English). Usually you don't introduce yourself using titles, except they appear important in the situation to clarify your function. However, usually you are expected to be humble about it.

In a written communication from a student to a professor, including emails, Herr/Frau Prof.

<surname>, and Herr/Frau Prof. Dr. <surname> are appropriate for first contact (well you choose either Herr or Frau based on gender)."

Non PhD qualified, academic/university setting

"It is widely accepted in Germany to address a person, with whom you're not familiar, with the title (either Prof. A or Dr. B, depending on the position). "Prof. Dr." (or even "Herr/Frau Prof. Dr") can be seen, but it is very, very formal, and quite unnecessary in my opinion. Once you get on personal-name basis, then it is common to address people with "Dear <Firstname>", or "Hi <Firstname>", or just "Hi". It all depends on the connection between two persons."

PhD qualified UK - non-professorial faculty position (lecturer, senior lecturer, reader)

"UK citizen. UK PhD. Now working in British University in Malaysia, and my title is Assistant Prof. In Asia, the correct term for me is Dr. <first name> and that is what all students, parents and General public call me.

I don't care how potential students or colleagues address me AFTER the first email. Dear, Hi or Hey is fine after the first. Same for first name or surname. It makes no difference. However, I feel the FIRST email should always be polite and address someone by their correct title. That's what I do, and I then change my way of addressing them in the subsequent emails depending on their signature, i.e. no how I think they wish to be addressed."

Other country, PhD qualified, title does not include "professor"

"In Sweden, we are not that formal. We do not start with "dear dr whatever" or "dear prof whatever". The translation feels old and if I would see that in a mail sent to me I would think they translated an english mail with google translate. I do however use it when communicating with people abroad. If I sent an e-mail to a Swedish speaking professor, I would simply start with "Hej first name" which is equivalent to "Hello first name". That would be the same if I approached any other person, regardless of profession or title, that I do not know (except for the King which have some other etiquette rules). This does not by any means translate to that we do not care about titles, we do! They are often used as a weight when talking to laymen or writing debate articles, kind of a creditability. This is however starting to dissociate because more and more people get titles in general and that is perhaps why we do not care so much in e-mails and so forth."

Other country, PhD qualified, title does not include "professor"

"AUS: A title is a title and should be used in all first communiques with people you dont know. A professor is someone very high up who has earned their stripes, but that doesnt mean you should address a US prof any differently. but there is a difference in rank."

PhD qualified - UK Professor

"This is not a question about being precious about titles to me. I think that it is not appropriate to call people you do not know by their first name before they give you permission to do so (I user Mr/Miss/Mrs when I approach job applicants, students, colleagues, service providers etc. unless they have indicated that it is ok for me to do otherwise). I would worry that people not 'getting' this have a slight issue with personal boundaries."

PhD qualified UK - non-professorial faculty position (lecturer, senior lecturer, reader)

"I try to engage with my students as adults, but I also expect a level of respect that accords with my position. I try not to be a dick about it, but I think that calling me 'Dr' until given permission to do otherwise is perfectly appropriate; it shows that the student is paying attention. It does bug me when students get this wrong, and it does make me less inclined to go out of my way for them."

PhD qualified - UK Professor

"No this isn't silly - I've actually experienced something I consider worse when a junior doctor (who wanted my professional advice) addressed me as Mrs xxx - clearly not even recognising that I might have a PhD let alone be a UK professor. I wasn't impressed..."

PhD qualified - US associate professor

"This is not trivial or silly. That first contact is often the difference between deleting the email and reading on. If someone can't take the time to figure out my gender (dear Mr Surname doesn't work well for me) or determine that I have a PhD (dear Mrs. Surname), it annoys me. I worked too long and hard for the PhD to not be called either Dr. or Prof. I am happy to quickly move the conversation to them calling me by my first name, but only at my

invite. Maybe I am old fashioned. :)
Cheers,
Firstname"

PhD qualified UK - non-professorial research position

*"I think etiquette is important. As a Brit who did his PhD in the UK, a postdoc in the USA and is now a research fellow in the UK, I have followed a simple rule when addressing academics I don't know. I start with Dear Dr X (or Dear Prof X if they are a full professor) in my first interaction, and if they sign their response with just their first name, my second interaction will start "Dear *first name*". I expect the same - a student should address me as Dr in their first approach, I will sign my response with my first name and they can then refer to me by my first name."*

PhD qualified UK - non-professorial faculty position (lecturer, senior lecturer, reader)

"I have been advised by a senior colleague (himself a Chair at a UK University) to introduce self named 'profs' from US institutes as 'Dr' when in the UK, since they are not really 'Prof' by the UK standard. Clearly for some perceived status of such titles matters."

PhD qualified UK - non-professorial research position

"I don't think this is silly or trivial. The first approach from a prospective student, if inappropriate, could affect the student's chances of admission, or the tone of the relationship if subsequently admitted. Better to be too polite than too familiar. The wrong title wouldn't bother me too much, but to be addressed by my first name by a stranger would irritate me."

PhD qualified UK - non-professorial faculty position (lecturer, senior lecturer, reader)

"I'm based in the UK. Generally, I encourage all colleagues to address me by first name and 'Hi/Hello' are appropriate email greetings - except for the first ever email. For your first introduction you ought to use Dear Dr <Surname> and more formal language. If the other party responds informally then this makes it acceptable to use a similar tone in return. This not only applies to senior colleagues. It wouldn't cross my mind to address a student I've never met by their first name in the first email. We're all adults in academia and so the first contact should be formal.

I normally don't use the title 'Prof.' in first emails but generally use 'Dr.' This avoids the confusion with the different meanings of this title and I don't think many people take offense to that (as far as I am aware). However, in situations where I am sure the person is a (full) professor, and especially when I want to convey an additional sense of respect, I would use 'Prof.'"

Non PhD qualified, academic/university setting

"I don't think it's trivial at all. I am not a PhD, but I have taught classes as a graduate assistant and I work with american professors in my job. While most of them are pretty casual and go by first names with their doctoral students (and with me), several of them would be very offended to be referred to by their first names in an initial email, and most of them would probably be concerned about professionalism. As a teaching assistant I was also concerned about overly familiar and/or awkwardly worded emails I received from students.

Also, in my experience, professor are seldom referred to as "Prof. So and So" in the US, though it's not unheard of or offensive. The exception is when professors are in a field, such as creative writing, where PhDs are not common and professors do not have them. And although it seems to be a less strict rule here than in the UK, as a communications director on a college campus, I avoid referring to assistant or associate professors as "professors," since there is a hierarchy."

PhD qualified - US other non-professorial teaching/research position (title does not include "professor")

"The way I learned it (and I'm not quite 30) is that you don't address someone by their first name unless they invite you to do so. I would be annoyed by that more than the lack of proper title - Professor or Doctor is a little immaterial to me."

Other country, PhD qualified, title does not include "professor"

"Unfortunately, in Mexico "Professor" can be used as an equivalent to "Teacher" therefore, Dr. seems more appropriate. It is important to advice on etiquette since sometimes a first bad impression can mark the student."

Non PhD qualified, academic/university setting

"(I'm in the UK, since my answer to the role question didn't include it.)"

Other country, PhD qualified, title does not include "professor"

"It's About professional relations. I Also don't think one should be over familiar with people you have never met (i.e. The 'American' way). So it's not just about academic titles, but also just Mr, Ms, etc"

Other country, PhD qualified, title includes "professor"

"I think it is about basic manners and depends on people's backgrounds and familiarity with the culture"

Other country, PhD qualified, title does not include "professor"

"I am from Australia, and it would be entirely appropriate to refer to a senior academic, even a full professor, by his/her first name -- provided you have met them first or have them initiate familiarity (by signing the response "Bob" or "Jen" or whatever). The first contact, however, should ideally be "Dear Dr..." or "Dear Professor..."

Be aware that there may be differences in how people interpret 'inappropriate' in the above ratings: it would be 'inappropriate' to refer to me as Professor, because I am not a professor. It would also be inappropriate to start an email with just "Hey!" - but for entirely different reasons. I would not be offended by being called a Professor, but I would feel uneasy about it as it is not my title, and I wouldn't want anyone to think I was trying to pass myself off as one. (That said, I don't think you can really go wrong with erring on the side of excess formality when you first contact someone.) I would, however, feel slightly put off by not being named at all or someone leaping straight to my first name, as it does rather imply they wish to rush the relationship or they don't wish to show me a level of common courtesy."

PhD qualified UK - non-professorial faculty position (lecturer, senior lecturer, reader)

"No, this isn't trivial! I think that addressing people politely and respectfully sets up a polite and respectful relationship. Some of these people will move from being acquaintances to friends, and this the language will change, but many will remain at this level. I am never offended by US-based researchers calling me Prof, as it is a polite and respectful form; what I do despise, as a female, is being referred to as Miss or Mrs in work emails. Given that my marital status has nothing to do with anyone else, if there is any indecision over Dr or Prof, please use Ms."

Non PhD qualified, academic/university setting

"I think it is important professionally. People have worked hard to be called 'dr' or 'prof' and it respectful to use the title within the academic world. It wouldn't matter at the supermarket or a social event, however."

PhD qualified - UK Professor

"Don't forget to spell check and use formal language throughout the email."

PhD qualified UK - non-professorial faculty position (lecturer, senior lecturer, reader)

"It takes about a second to check that you're addressing someone properly - not to do so is just sloppy and betrays at best a lack of attention to detail and at worst a lack of awareness of the formal politeness the situation requires."

PhD qualified, UK, other university/academic setting (e.g., editor)

"No, UK HEIs are still incredibly hierarchical despite their liberal protestations. Best to err on the side of caution. An individual will soon say 'call me Jack' if they don't do formality. You are less likely to offend using Dr. than not using it!"

PhD qualified UK - non-professorial faculty position (lecturer, senior lecturer, reader)

"I think it's just plain good manners - information on someone's title is freely available and should be used; particularly if the person is senior to you, and ALWAYS if you have never met them. Anyone I don't know addressing me as "Hey {firstname}" in an email would be perceived as flippant.

Manners maketh applicant."

PhD qualified - UK Professor

"I do not believe this issue to be trivial. And with my own PhD students, first names are usual once we get to know each other. But we are also teaching young scholars to operate in a world where others may be offended. The appropriate introduction at first contact shows awareness of the environment they are entering into. Moreover, if a scholar at another university uses Dr instead of Professor, it would suggest to me they need to do more research. Hilariously, I am less concerned when a non-British student calls me Dr as they may not know I have a chair and assume the professor title is a one size fits all (particularly

JSA/JYA). But I am certainly not as up tight as German scholars are on this - where every degree must also be included. In my case I would be "Herr Professor Dr Hab" and the use of the plural 'Sie' (you) instead of 'du' (you) in speech/email is THE LAW until the "higher ranked" allows for the use of 'du' - considered a singular honour. This goes for those with PhDs addressing fellow scholars too - ouch! And you thought the Brits were uptight :)"

Other country, PhD qualified, title does not include "professor"

"I'm in Australia and I think it is valuable research. As a recent PhD student, it would be great to know more about etiquette, and to understand international differences. Field trip to Aus perhaps?"

PhD qualified - US assistant professor

"I find this is a bigger problem with undergraduates. I give out an email etiquette sheet on the first day of every class I teach and encourage students to use the tips in other situations outside of school (e.g., when contacting future employers)."

PhD qualified - US assistant professor

"I'd be very interested in hearing the results of your work. I prefer that students I don't know call me Dr. but all of the students in my lab call me by my first name. What particularly irks me as a female academic is that several times I've been on a group email from a student to a few faculty members where the male professors are addressed as Dr. and I, as the lone woman, am either listed by my first name or Ms.

As for the Dr. vs. Prof, I would never tell students to call me Professor as I am just an Assistant Professor, but I think I'm one of the few who distinguishes between these terms here in the US."

PhD qualified UK - non-professorial research position

"for me, the answer to "how appropriate" differs from "if I care someone address me differently.""

Other country, PhD qualified, title includes "professor"

"I find this interesting - esp coming from Australia where we mobilise the UK system of assigning 'professor'. Pat Thomson on her blog last year (patter) wrote a piece on using titles in non academic locations (e.g. airports) that might be worth a look - although tangential. Good luck with the work and hope to hear more it via twitter."

Other country, PhD qualified, title does not include "professor"

"From Canada. Working in US and just accepts TT position for fall 2013. I do think titles matter, I do think it demonstrates respect, I do think it is being undermined, I don't think this is silly.

*If we want academics to be respected for their research and expertise, we ought to treat them with *some* respect."*

Other country, PhD qualified, title does not include "professor"

"I'm in Canada - it's the same as in the US. Before contacting someone in the UK, I always find out if they are 'Dr' or 'Professor', and address the email accordingly. For the US and Canada, if they are postdocs I address them as 'Dr', whereas if they are above (principle investigators), I address them 'as Prof'.

For formal enquiries, I expect others to make similar investigations so (perhaps wrongly) assume they have not bothered to make the effort. I think it is extremely important for students to be informed how to make such approaches as it can make the difference between success and failure. A perfect recent example: I had two students email me to request supervision - one wrote a very careful and appropriately worded email (including starting with 'Dear...'), whilst the other wrote a very brief one sentence email (started the email with 'Hi...'). My reaction was, 'well if he can't make be bothered to make an effort with a simple email, why should I be bothered to spend so much of my time supervising him?' Needless to say, I chose the first student."

PhD qualified UK - non-professorial faculty position (lecturer, senior lecturer, reader)

"No it's not trivial. First impressions matter. While I don't hold it against anyone who gets these things wrong, it does irritate me to have students be overfamiliar or too informal. So if the purpose of this survey is to give advice to prospective PhD students when approaching potential supervisors, I think it's very important.

As a general rule, you should err on the side of being more formal/polite than you think necessary. No harm is done from this, whereas there is the risk of harm if you err too far the other way and get it wrong."

PhD qualified - US associate professor

"Not all professors have PhDs, so that complicates matters especially in two year colleges where professors may have graduate degrees or other degrees considered terminal but not PhDs. Just my experience in the US."

PhD qualified - US other professorial teaching/research position (title includes "professor")

"In the US, a "professor" is the form of address used when you are unsure if the person is a Phd or not. It is the generic address, especially for someone that teaches at the university level full time. Dr. is preferred if you know for sure that person has a Phd. For example, I have taught at the university level for over 20 years, but just received my Phd this last year. My students referred to me as professor, not Dr., but now will use Dr. and professor interchangeably. I would correct them if they used "Dr." ("I'm not a doctor yet") but not if they used professor. In addition, there are different administrative titles that you have outlined that identify the status of someone teaching at the university. This is used usually in salutations (i.e. Name, title, department). I am an instructor even though I have a phd because I am parttime. There are also two other titles emerging as commonly used: clinical professor (usually supervisory position with or without phd and without tenure) and visiting professor (temporary full-time, non tenured, with or without phd)."

Non PhD qualified, non-academic setting

"Australia."

PhD qualified UK - non-professorial faculty position (lecturer, senior lecturer, reader)

"No, politeness greases the machinery of civilisation. I am also mildly irritated if they never stop calling me dr or prof after I've suggested they don't need to though."

PhD qualified - US (full) professor

"Students are frequently uncomfortable with how to address faculty in various situations, so this is worthwhile information for them. My own "general rule" would be to err on the side of excess formality rather than the converse."

PhD qualified - US (full) professor

"Since "Dr." is used when addressing a physician, I am much more comfortable being addressed as Professor rather than "Doctor.""

PhD qualified - US assistant professor

"I think this is more important in different fields. In a field where everyone holds a Ph.D. (at my school, all the Science and Math faculty) it may play a larger role in distinguishing. I actually know people who prefer Dr. just because for some reason non-terminal degree faculty in their area go by Prof. (which I think isn't typical... but here non-terminal degree + 6 years of teaching experience = Prof.)"