

## **THE SENATE HOUSE STAFF WILL NOT ALLOW YOU TO TAKE YOUR DEGREE UNLESS YOU ABIDE BY THE DRESS REGULATIONS.**

### **ACADEMICAL**

You should wear the gown and hood of your highest Cambridge degree or, if not already a Cambridge graduate, a BA or MA status gown and the hood of the degree you are about to take. You are not permitted to wear the academical dress of another University. Academic dress can be hired from the following companies in Cambridge.

Ryder & Amies  
22 King's Parade  
Tel: 01223 350371  
[www.ryderamies.co.uk](http://www.ryderamies.co.uk)

A E Clothier  
13 King's Parade  
Tel: 01223 354339  
[www.aeclothier.co.uk](http://www.aeclothier.co.uk)

Ede & Ravenscroft  
71/72 Trumpington Street  
Tel: 01223 350048  
[www.edeandravenscroft.co.uk](http://www.edeandravenscroft.co.uk)

### **NON - ACADEMICAL**

You must also pay attention to your non-academical dress, as, unless candidates are correctly dressed, it is not possible to present them for a degree.

#### **Female Graduands**

A plain, long-sleeved dark dress or a dark suit with a plain, long-sleeved white blouse, or a dark skirt and a plain, long-sleeved white blouse, with or without a plain black cardigan. The blouse must be a traditional blouse with buttoned front and not a T-Shirt, and you will find it helpful if it has a collar. You may wear a smart black trouser suit. **Dark** means black, or **very** dark blue, or **very** dark grey. Shoes (**not** fashion boots, open-toe shoes or sandals) must be completely black and plain black tights must be worn. This applies whether wearing a skirt or trousers.

#### **Extra information/request from the Praelector**

Please do not pin anything without being so instructed by the Praelector. Ideally wear a white blouse with a conventional collar and buttons that do up to the neck so it is easier to attach hood. If possible, wear a black jacket with buttons as it is easier to attach hoods to jackets rather than blouses. Wear 'sensible' shoes, preferably with a small (but not high) heel. Cardigans (if worn) should have buttons to the waist.

#### **Male Graduands**

A plain dark suit or preferably a black dinner jacket. A plain white shirt and white dress tie and bands should also be worn. Shirts with a pattern are not permitted. **Dark** means black or **very** dark blue or **very** dark grey. Shoes (**not** sandals or boots) must be black and socks must be **plain black**.

### **Extra information/request from the Praelector**

Avoid button-down collared shirts but wear conventional collar shirts as opposed to wing collars if possible. For both men and women, heavy jewellery should not be worn, and exaggerated hairstyles and/or hair colouring should be avoided. When hiring hoods ask for silk as opposed to cloth as they are less bulky and easier to wear.

### **PROCTORIAL NOTES FOR THE GUIDANCE OF GRADUANDS**

Procedure and Presentation: Degrees are conferred at Congregations that are held in the Senate House. No-one may graduate, either in person or in absence, until their degree has been approved by the Regent House. Degrees honoris causa (honorary degrees) are usually conferred only at special Congregations. Candidates for the higher degrees of DD, LLD, MD, LittD, ScD, MusD, BD, VetMD and MChir are presented at the beginning of each Congregation by specially appointed persons, as are non-collegiate candidates for Incorporation or for the MA degree under Statute B III 6. Other graduands are then presented by College Praelectors.

Dress at Graduation: Congregations are formal occasions and an appropriate standard of dress is therefore expected. In extreme cases the Proctors reserve the right to refuse to allow improperly dressed candidates to graduate at a particular Congregation. For minor infringements the Proctors levy a fine on the person responsible for presenting the graduand. Graduands are required to wear dark clothes with their academical dress and men must wear white bow ties and bands. A graduand who is in any doubt about the correct attire for graduation should consult his or her Praelector or Presenter well in advance of the Congregation.

Dark Clothes: This means black, very dark grey or very dark blue. Dark clothes worn for graduation should not contrast noticeably with a black academical gown, but they may incorporate subdued stripes if they conform to this condition.

Men should wear a dark suit and a plain, long-sleeved, white shirt with a white collar, white bow tie and bands. Shoes must be formal and plain black (no sandals) and worn with unpatterned black socks. Conspicuous jewellery should not be worn.

Women should wear either a dark suit of jacket and skirt or trousers with a plain, long-sleeved, white shirt, or a dark skirt with a white shirt, or a long-sleeved dark dress. Plain black tights should be worn with either a skirt or trousers. Shoes must be formal and black (no sandals or boots). Conspicuous jewellery and hair adornments should not be worn.

A black cassock may be worn instead of a suit, but a male graduand wearing a cassock must also wear a white collar, bow tie and bands. The above notes on dress are for guidance only and they do not prevent any Praelector or Presenter from insisting upon a more rigorous code of dress.

### **HEAD-DRESS, GOWNS AND HOODS**

A graduand should wear the academical dress of the University of Cambridge and in no circumstances may he or she graduate in the academical dress of any other institution.

A graduand who is an undergraduate, or an affiliated student or a BTh candidate should wear an undergraduate gown appropriate to the College to which he or she belongs, together with the hood of the highest degree he or she is about to take.

A Cambridge graduate proceeding to another Cambridge degree should wear the gown and hood of the highest Cambridge degree that or she already holds.

A candidate for Incorporation or for the degree of MA under Statute B III 6 should wear the gown and hood of the Cambridge degree he or she is about to take.

Any other candidate should wear a Cambridge BA gown without strings, unless he or she has attained the age of 24, in which case a Cambridge MA gown without strings should be worn instead. The hood worn should be that of the highest Cambridge degree the graduand is about to take.

A square cap is optional and it should be taken off inside the Senate House and carried in the left hand. This rule also applies to doctoral bonnets. Head-dress may only be worn inside the Senate House to comply with religious obligations.

A festal or 'scarlet' gown and festal bonnet are worn by a graduand when the Congregation is held on a Scarlet Day and the candidate either already holds a Cambridge doctorate or is to receive one by Incorporation or honoris causa. With the exception of special Congregations held for honorary degrees, no higher degree or degree by Incorporation is normally conferred on a Scarlet Day, so a graduand intending to wear a festal gown should always consult his or her Praelector or Presenter in advance.

A spectator who is a member of the University should wear a gown when attending a Congregation. A Senior Member in academical dress may normally attend a Congregation without a ticket of admission provided that sufficient space is available and the two front benches nearest the Proctors on the North Side of the Senate House are usually reserved for this purpose.