

## **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.**

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

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

### **Dress Option One**

- A dinner jacket or black, very dark grey or very dark blue lounge suit. These must be dark enough not to contrast obviously with a black gown. **Dark** means black or very dark grey.
- A plain, long-sleeved, collared, white shirt.
- Formal black shoes. Sandals are not permitted.
- Unpatterned black or very dark grey socks.
- White bow-tie and bands *must* be worn.

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

Avoid button-down collared shirts but wear conventional collar shirts as opposed to wing collars if possible.

### **Dress Option Two**

- A black, very dark grey or very dark blue skirt suit or trouser suit, or a dark skirt without a jacket, or a dark, long-sleeved dress. These must be dark enough not to contrast obviously with a black gown. **Dark** means black or very dark grey.
- A plain, long-sleeved, white shirt or blouse (unless a long-sleeved dress is worn).
- Formal black shoes. Sandals are not permitted. 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.
- Unpatterned black, nearly-black, or natural coloured hosiery.
- A white bow-tie and bands may be worn (optional) *but only with a properly collared white shirt.*

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

1. Please do not pin anything without being so instructed by the Praelector.
2. 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.
3. Wear 'sensible' shoes, preferably with a small (but not high) heel.
4. Cardigans (if worn) should have buttons to the waist.

A black cassock may be substituted for a dark suit, skirt or dress in either Dress One or Two, but it must be worn with *either* a white bow-tie and bands *or* a clerical collar and bands.

### **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. 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.

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 he 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.