



DOWNING COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE

General Admission

Friday 28 June 2024





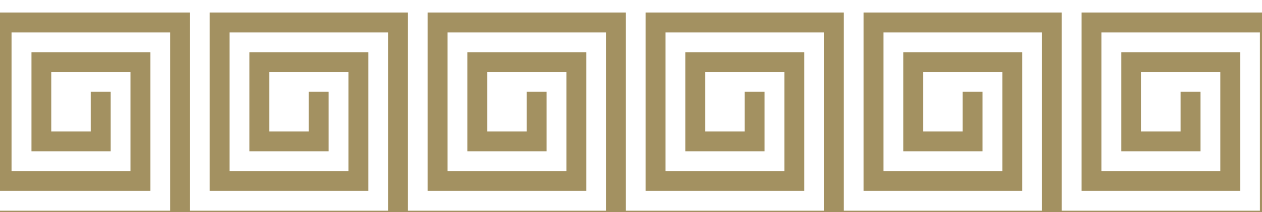
Welcome

It will be an honour and a privilege for me to confer your degrees at the Senate-House, and especially significant for me as this will be my first General Admission as Master.

Your admission to your degree is a rite of passage, involving long-standing tradition, formality and a lot of Latin. It is a time to reflect on your time at Downing and what is to come next, but it also provides an opportunity for your family, friends and Downing fellows and staff to celebrate your achievements.

Please read this guide carefully since it will answer many of the questions you might have. Please do comply with the outlined requirements so that you can then focus on enjoying your graduation, which I hope will be fun for us all.

Professor Graham Virgo
Master of Downing College



Timetable for General Admission

Friday 28 June 2024

From 8am to 10.30am

Vehicle access for on-site parking.

From 9am to 11am

Graduands register with the Tutorial team outside D Staircase. Please come dressed ready for Congregation.

11am

Graduands assemble for group photograph, with talk by the Praelector about Senate-House procedures.

11.45am

Graduands assemble outside the Chapel for Procession to the Senate-House.

12.20pm

Guests advised to leave for Senate-House.

12.30pm

Procession to Senate-House begins.

12.45pm

Guests to arrive at Senate-House.

12.50pm

Graduands to arrive at Senate-House.

1pm

Senate-House ceremony livestream in the Howard Theatre.

1pm

Session begins at Senate-House.

1.35pm

Approximate finishing time of Congregation at Senate-House.

From 2pm

Plated lunch and drinks served from the marquee in front of the Dining Hall. Additional seating is available in the Dining Hall and Fellows' Garden.

From 3.45pm

Group photographs available from the Porters' Lodge.

From 4pm

Vehicles can leave the site.



Dress Code

Please be aware that you **MUST** adhere to the dress code outlined by the University when attending your graduation.

Please see:

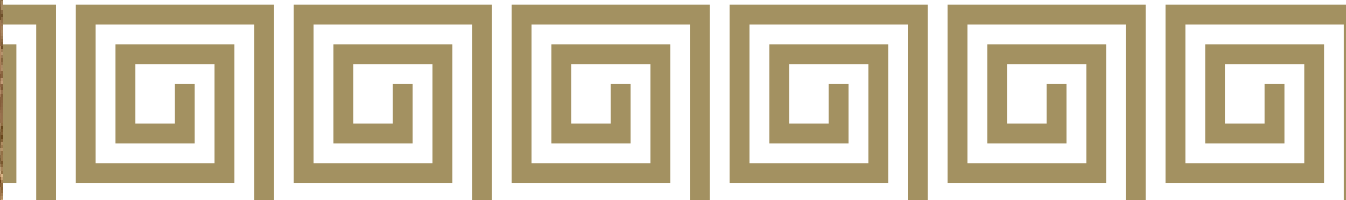
www.cambridgestudents.cam.ac.uk/your-course/graduation-and-what-next/degree-ceremonies/academic-dress

If you haven't already, please arrange to hire your academic dress (gown, hood, etc.) immediately so you have it for when you come to register in the morning.

You will **NOT** be permitted to graduate if you do not have the correct academic dress.

The suppliers will be able to advise you on what you require.

Any variation from the University dress code normally required for graduation, such as national dress or military uniform, must receive permission in advance from the University Proctors. To apply please email your request to: graduation@dow.cam.ac.uk





Dress options

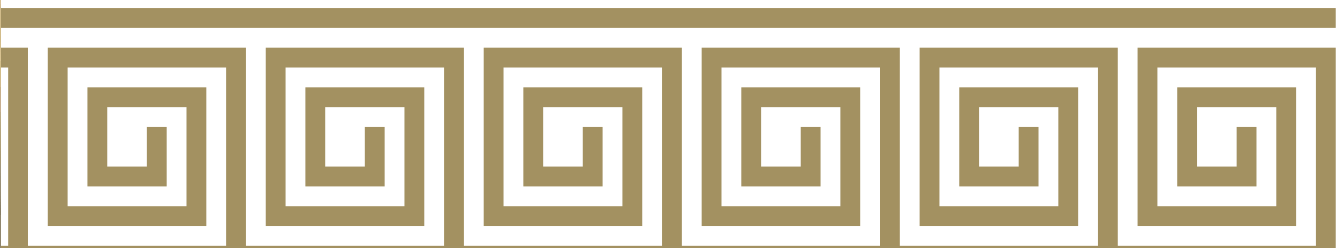
Under your academical dress you **MUST** be dressed appropriately. The College may be fined if you do not adhere to these rules and you may not be permitted to graduate. There are two dress options:

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.
- 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.

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.
- A plain, long-sleeved, white shirt or blouse (unless a long-sleeved dress is worn).
- Formal black shoes. Sandals are not permitted.
- 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.





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

It is essential you follow the dress code.

Graduands wearing skirts/dresses:

- Plain black shoes worn only
- NO flashes of colour or white
- NO heels or toes on show (sandals are not permitted)
- You must wear tights (black or natural colour) - bare legs are not permitted
- There are no guidelines on skirt/dress length but you must be able to kneel (and get back to your feet) with dignity!

Graduands wearing trousers:

- A matching jacket must be worn when wearing trousers, for both dress option one and dress option two
- Plain BLACK socks are essential and no motifs or flashes of colour are permitted

Flat shoes

Flat shoes are recommended. While high heels are permitted within the dress code, the walk to Senate-House is over cobbles and uneven paving which can be uncomfortable. You will be on your feet for some time and the floor at Senate-House can be very slippery on a wet day.





Senate-House

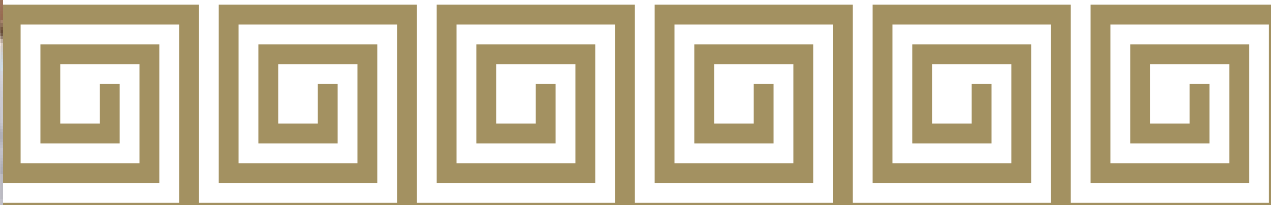
There is no dress code for guests watching the ceremony at Senate-House, but most guests wear smart clothing appropriate for a formal occasion such as a wedding.

Please check the weather conditions on the day and dress accordingly. There is no shelter near Senate-House and visitors are advised to bring umbrellas in case of wet weather as there are occasionally delays before guests and/or graduands are allowed entry.

To ensure that your visit to the University is as safe as possible, enhanced security procedures have been implemented.

The University will not allow rucksacks, holdalls, shopping bags or bags larger than 35cm x 25cm into Senate-House or Senate-House yard. If you bring large bags to the Congregation, you will be asked to make alternative arrangements for their storage or may be denied entry to the event. If you need to keep your bag with you, you must seek assistance from a Proctor/Constable who will check contents prior to entry to Senate-House.

Graduands are not permitted to carry anything into Senate-House with them, please give any bags/umbrellas to your guests to look after during the ceremony.





Guest tickets

Please carry your own ticket for entry to Senate-House, rather than in groups, to make processing as quick as possible.

If you have access requirements at Senate-House, please speak to one of the officials wearing a top hat on arrival.

Photography

Photography or recording of any kind is not permitted during the Senate-House ceremony.

After the ceremony you will have the chance to purchase frames for certificates, official Senate-House photos, etc., in the Senate-House yard. All details can be found using the link below:

www.cambridgestudents.cam.ac.uk/degree-ceremonies/photography

Please note, no other professional photographers are permitted in Senate-House yard after the ceremony.



Livestream

Please follow this link for the livestream
<https://cambridge.graduations-live.co.uk/>

The livestream is provided to allow those friends and family members unable to attend Senate-House to view this important event. It is provided on the understanding that it is a private recording, not to be publicly shared on social media or in any public forum.

Whilst the University and the contractors will make best efforts to provide the livestream, it is not guaranteed and some circumstances may prevent either a live broadcast or possibly a later showing of any recording. The private YouTube link for each ceremony will remain live for two months after the ceremony.

Lafayette Photography

If you would like an individual/family photography session with Lafayette Photography, please follow the link to book a slot. Select the drop-down box to **Institutions** and **Downing College** here:
www.lafayettephotography.com/eventphotography/book



Lunch arrangements

Lunch tickets for graduands and guests will be given out at registration.

A plated lunch and drinks will be served from the marquee on the lawns in front of the Dining Hall.

There will be seating and shelter available in the marquee, in the Dining Hall and in the Fellows' Garden.

Accessibility and toilets

Level access to the Dining Hall and B/C staircases is via West Lodge Garden.

Accessible toilets are available in B staircase, Howard Theatre basement (via lift) and the Butterfield Cafe.

Additional toilets are located in D, T and U staircases, as well as B staircase (first floor via lift.)



College accommodation

Graduands and their guests must vacate College accommodation before 10am on Saturday 29 June.

Parking

Parking in College will be available from Thursday 27 June until Saturday 29 June. There are time limits on arrival and departure times.

Thursday 27 June

Please arrive between 1.30pm & 8.30pm

Friday 28 June

Vehicles will not be permitted to arrive or depart between 10.30am & 4pm

Saturday 29 June

Please depart by 11am

Please apply for on-site parking for up to two vehicles via the link in the email from the Tutorial Office. You will be asked for the vehicle registration number(s). If you have any questions email:
graduation@dow.cam.ac.uk



No smoking policy

There is a strict no smoking policy within both University and College buildings and grounds.

Other information

Guide dogs for the blind, hearing dogs for the deaf and assistance dogs are permitted on site at Downing College and Senate-House.

No other animals are permitted at any time for General Admission. Please do not bring any animals in your vehicle.

