Admission to Degrees 2020

Dates and timings

Graduands will be presented by the Praelector at Congregations in 2020 on the following dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>time of ceremony</th>
<th>arrive in College for rehearsal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>25 January</td>
<td>2pm</td>
<td>11.45am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>22 February</td>
<td>2pm</td>
<td>11.45am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>21 March</td>
<td>11am (main MA congregation)</td>
<td>9.45am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>25 April</td>
<td>11am</td>
<td>10.15am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>16 May</td>
<td>10am</td>
<td>9am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>24 June</td>
<td>General Admission</td>
<td>undergraduates only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>17 July</td>
<td>10am</td>
<td>9am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>24 October</td>
<td>11am</td>
<td>10.15am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>28 November</td>
<td>(in absentia only)</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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</table>

You may take your degree in person or in absence on any of these dates except for the November Congregation, when degrees will be conferred in absentia only. Please return the enclosed form at least four weeks before the date on which you wish to take your degree, and preferably sooner.

Lunch

If you are taking your degree in person, I shall be delighted if you choose to join us for lunch as a guest of the College. You may bring up to three guests to lunch at your own expense; the current charge per person, including wine, is £31.50. The arrangements differ slightly between the smaller afternoon Congregations and the larger morning Congregations. At all Congregations pre-prandial drinks will be served for you and your guests at 12 noon, usually in the Saltmarsh Rooms, followed by lunch at 12.30; for the larger Congregations, increased numbers dictate that lunch be held in the College Hall. Graduands or guests who may have difficulty negotiating the stairs can reach the Saltmarsh Rooms via the lift near the Library. Payment for your guests’ lunch, if applicable, should be made by contacting the Accounts Office to pay by card. You can phone either Suraj Odedra on 01223 331211 or Julie Harvey on 01223 762614 between the hours of 9.30 am and 5.30 pm.

Robing

Whether or not you take lunch, if you are graduating in person you must arrive in College at the times listed above, dressed for the ceremony and with your robes, in order to meet with the Praelector to robe and rehearse prior to the ceremony. Numbers will dictate the venue (variably the Saltmarsh Rooms, the Beves Room, or the Chetwynd Room) and the Praelector’s Secretary will send you a timetable after the application closing date.

Guests

Your guests (a maximum of 3) may attend the Congregation; they should arrive at the Senate House at least 15 minutes before the ceremony is due to start. Guest tickets are essential and will either be sent to you after the application closing date or left at the Porters’ Lodge by prior arrangement. The King’s part of the Congregation is usually over fairly quickly: you may leave the Senate House on the conferral of your degree, but your guests will be asked to remain in the Senate House until there is a suitable adjournment (usually around half an hour).
IMPORTANT: Praelector and graduands are obliged to arrive at the Senate House at strictly specified times. It is YOUR responsibility to arrive punctually in College as indicated above. Any graduand missing at the roll call will be assumed absent and will be removed from the list, which means that they will not be permitted to graduate.

Dress

Dress regulations for the ceremony are very strict and must be adhered to exactly; the overall effect must be formal and tidy. If you are inappropriately dressed, the Proctors may refuse to allow your degree to be conferred in person, thus leading to your exclusion from the Congregation.

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 (not cream) shirt.
- Formal, entirely black shoes. Sandals and boots 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 similarly coloured skirt with jacket or cardigan, or a similarly coloured long-sleeved dress. All these must be dark enough not to contrast obviously with a black gown.
- A plain, long-sleeved, white (not cream) shirt or blouse (unless a long-sleeved dress is worn).
- Formal, entirely black shoes. Sandals are not permitted. The heels should be low enough for you to walk across lawns, cobbles and the slippery marble of the Senate House floor, and to kneel and stand up again unaided.
- Black boots should not be worn with a skirt but plain black ankle boots are acceptable when worn with full length trousers.
- Unpatterned black or natural coloured hosiery
- A white bow-tie and bands may be worn (optional) but only with a properly collared white shirt.
- The skirt or dress must be of decent length and no more than 10cm above the knee.
- Trousers must be full length and formal in style.

All Graduands
- No head-dress is permitted, except for religious reasons in which case it should be black or white.
- No decorative belts
- No bags of any variety

Headdress
The square cap, or 'mortarboard', is optional for graduands at Cambridge. If you do decide to wear one on the day, you should take it off and carry it in your left hand inside the Senate House. The velvet Doctor's bonnet with gold tassel is worn only on 'scarlet days', when festal gowns also are worn. Please note that it is not appropriate to carry a bonnet, as opposed to a mortarboard, in the Senate House if you are receiving a Ph. D on any of the dates listed above.
Jewellery
Conspicuous jewellery, including facial piercings, and hair accessories, is not permitted during the graduation ceremony inside the Senate House.

FOR BOTH MEN AND WOMEN Clerical, military or national dress are acceptable as alternatives to the above. In such cases you must indicate, when you return your application form, the alternative dress you propose to wear, as the Praelector must in each case seek prior permission from the Proctors. With such attire you still must wear a gown and hood.

GOWN AND HOOD HIRE Tie, bands, gown and hood may be hired from:
Ryder & Amies OR Ede & Ravenscroft
22 King's Parade 71/72 Trumpington St
Cambridge CB2 1SP Cambridge CB2 1RJ
Tel: 01223 350371 Tel: 01223 861854

The total hire cost ranges from £26 to £33. It is vital that you collect your robes well in advance of the Congregation.

HOODS If you are already a Cambridge graduate, you wear the hood of the highest degree that you currently hold; otherwise you wear the hood of the degree you are taking.

GOWNS If you already possess a Cambridge degree, you wear the gown of that degree (see above). If you do not possess a Cambridge degree and are a graduate student under the age of 24 years, you wear a 'BA status gown' (BA gown without strings); if you are a graduate student of 24 years or over, you wear an 'MA status gown' (MA gown without strings).

Trinitarian Formula: The Vice-Chancellor admits graduands to their degrees ‘in nomine Patris et Filii et Spiritus Sancti’. Those with a religious objection to this Trinitarian formula are asked to inform the Praelector’s Secretary, Victoria Zeitlyn (praelector@kings.cam.ac.uk), at least two weeks before the ceremony. The alternatives are ‘in nomine Dei’ (in the name of God) or omitting the formula altogether.

OUTSTANDING DEBTS TO THE COLLEGE

Any student who expects to have outstanding debts at the point of graduation MUST meet with their tutor to discuss repayment before they are put forward to receive their degree. Failure to do so will result in the College being unable to put them forward for graduation.

If you have any questions please contact the Praelector’s Secretary on Praelector@kings.cam.ac.uk

Professor Nicholas Marston
Praelector
Tel: 01223 331236
Email: praelector@kings.cam.ac.uk

Updated September 2018