

## DRESS AT CONGREGATIONS

All graduands and celebrands must wear the correct academic dress; i.e. the appropriate hood and gown. In addition, anyone wearing trousers must wear a white bow tie and bands. Bow ties and bands are optional with a skirt and must not be worn with a dress.

If you are not properly dressed (i.e. your dress does not meet the University's requirements as set out in this document), the Praelector may have to withdraw you from the congregation you were scheduled to attend and enter you for a future congregation where you can have your degree celebrated or, if your degree is yet to be conferred, you would have the choice of graduating in person or in absence.

Graduation is a formal occasion, and the attire worn on the day will be reflected in official graduation photographs and recordings. While a black jacket is no longer required in all circumstances, graduands who have access to a suit may still wish to wear one as part of the formality of the occasion, unless weather conditions make this impractical.

### Approved Dress

You may wear one of the following:

#### Option A: Suit

- A black or very dark grey lounge suit, dinner jacket, skirt suit or trouser suit. Garments must be unpatterned and dark enough not to contrast obviously with a black gown (i.e. they should appear black when worn with the gown).
- Trousers must be full length and reach to the shoe.
- Skirts must be at least knee length.
- If a belt is worn, the buckle must be discreet.
- A plain, long-sleeved, collared white shirt or blouse.
- Formal plain black shoes (if laced, the laces must be black). Sandals are not permitted.
- Unpatterned black or very dark grey socks must be worn with trousers.
- Plain black, nearly-black or natural-coloured hosiery must be worn with a skirt.
- A white bow tie and bands must be worn with trousers.
- A white bow tie and bands may be worn with a skirt, but only with a properly collared white shirt.

#### Option B: Skirt without Jacket

- A black or very dark grey skirt, worn without a jacket.
- The skirt must be unpatterned, at least knee length, and dark enough not to contrast obviously with a black gown.
- A plain, long-sleeved white shirt or blouse. Arms must be covered.
- Formal plain black shoes (if laced, the laces must be black). Sandals are not permitted.
- Plain black, nearly-black or natural-coloured hosiery must be worn.
- A white bow tie and bands may be worn, but only with a properly collared white shirt.

#### Option C: Dress

- A black or very dark grey, long-sleeved dress.

- The dress must be unpatterned, at least knee length, and dark enough not to contrast obviously with a black gown.
- Formal plain black shoes (if laced, the laces must be black). Sandals are not permitted.
- Plain black, nearly-black or natural-coloured hosiery must be worn.
- Bow ties and bands must not be worn with a dress.

A LONG-SLEEVED WHITE SHIRT MUST BE WORN UNLESS YOU ARE WEARING A BLACK OR VERY DARK GREY LONG-SLEEVED DRESS.

A black cassock may be substituted for any of the above options, but it must be worn with either a white bow tie and bands or a clerical collar and bands.

#### **Please Note**

- Very high heels, open-toed shoes, slingbacks, boots, clogs and mules are not permitted.
- Plain black or neutral stockings or tights, or black socks under trousers, must be worn. Bare legs are not permitted.
- Visible tattoos may be covered.

Graduands and celebrands must not:

- Carry a handbag.
- Wear heavy jewellery. Small stud earrings and simple rings only are permitted.
- Wear anything on their head, except for religious reasons (please check with Student Services or the Praelector).

#### **Headdress**

The square cap, or mortarboard, is optional for graduands at Cambridge. If you decide to wear one on the day, you may not wear or carry it in the Senate House and should leave it with a guest.

#### **Jewellery**

Conspicuous jewellery and hair accessories are not permitted.

#### **Hair Colouring and Style**

The addition of exaggerated hair decoration is not appropriate. Graduands are asked to adopt a neat and tidy hairstyle.

#### **National, Clerical and Military Dress**

If you wish to wear national or cultural dress, or service uniform, instead of standard dark clothing, this is normally possible. You must apply at least two weeks before graduation via Student Services so that the Praelector can make a formal request for dispensation to the Proctors. The correct gown and hood must still be worn. For any questions, please contact Student Services.

IF YOU ARE IN ANY DOUBT ABOUT YOUR DRESS, PLEASE CONSULT THE STUDENT SERVICES OFFICE OR PRAELECTOR.