



# UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD DEGREE CEREMONY





## Vice-Chancellor's welcome

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It is wonderful to see so many people here today for this special ceremony for our graduands. It is a proud moment for us all.

Today we celebrate your achievements, as we mark the successful completion of your studies. This is very much your day, but it is also one that we are delighted to share. Our academic and support staff across the collegiate University are both thankful and pleased to have had the opportunity to work alongside you during your time with us.

Whatever your chosen path we wish you well for the future. We do so in the knowledge that the talents you have developed here in Oxford, the knowledge you have gained and the contacts you have made will stand you in good stead. You have been given an outstanding educational opportunity and we hope that you will use it wisely going forwards.

Please remember that although the graduation ceremony may feel like the last step in your Oxford journey your connection with the University will last a lifetime. No one ever really leaves Oxford! We welcome you warmly to our alumni community, and we look forward to seeing you often in the future.

You have worked for this moment. Please accept my sincere congratulations on reaching this landmark moment. My wish is that you have a fulfilled life and career using all your extraordinary gifts. Now relax and enjoy your special day with your loved ones.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Irene Tracey'.

Professor Irene Tracey CBE, FMedSci

# The ceremony

Academic degrees date from the second half of the twelfth century. The present ceremony retains all the essential features of its ancient predecessors, including the fact that the proceedings are conducted in Latin







## The ceremony

Participants wear full academic dress appropriate to their current status in the University. The candidates are seated, in order of their presentation, on both sides of the building. In front of them are the professors and college Deans who have candidates to present. At the start of the ceremony the Vice-Chancellor (or, in her absence, a Pro-Vice-Chancellor) enters, preceded by the Bedels, and followed by the Proctors (or, in their absence, the Pro-Proctors) and the Registrar (or deputy). The Vice-Chancellor makes an introductory speech in English and then opens the proceedings with a Latin statement known as a formula:

*Causa huius Congregationis est ut Gratiae concedantur, ut Gradus conferantur, necnon ut alia peragantur, quae ad Venerabilem hanc Domum spectant.*

*The reason for this Congregation is that Graces be granted and Degrees be conferred, and further that other business which concerns this Venerable House be transacted.*

The Registrar or deputy testifies that all the candidates have received the permission of their colleges to take their degrees, and that he has verified their qualifications:

*Ego Registrarius (Registrario Adjutor/trix) testor omnibus candidatis, quorum nomina vel Venerabili Domui a Procuratoribus statim submittentur vel in schedulis a Registrario rite publicata sunt, Gratias a Collegiis vel Societatibus suis pro Gradibus quaesitis concessas fuisse, et easdem mihi satisfecisse.*

*I, the (Assistant) Registrar, certify that all the candidates, whose names either will be submitted forthwith to the Venerable House by the Proctors or have been duly published in the lists by the Registrar, have been granted Graces by their colleges or societies for the degrees sought, and that they have satisfied me.*

The degree ceremony usually follows the order described further on. However, this order will be varied slightly on those occasions when a small number of colleges present their candidates for a more limited range of degrees.

## Higher degrees

### Supplication

The Proctors rise and the Senior Proctor calls the names of candidates who are supplicating for higher degrees. The order in which candidates are presented depends on the level of the degree: highest degrees – the DD, DCL and DM – are conferred first. The other higher degrees are DLitt, DSc, DMus, DPhil, DCLinPsych, DEng, MCh, BD, BCL, MJur and BM BCh.

*Supplicant venerabili Congregationi Doctorum et Magistrorum regentium hi Studiosi qui compleverunt omnia quae per statuta requiruntur (nisi quatenus cum eis dispensatum fuerit); ut haec sufficient, quo admittantur ad gradum enumeratum.*

*These students, who have completed all that is required by the Statutes (except in so far as dispensation has been granted), supplicate the Venerable Congregation of Doctors and Regent Masters that these things may suffice for admission to the specified degree.*

The Senior Proctor also supplicates for candidates who are not present at the ceremony but who wish to be admitted to their degrees.

Once the supplications have been made, the Proctors walk back and forth, in front of the Deans who, by their silence, indicate their vote in favour of the candidates. Long ago, this was the customary manner of voting in the University, and would once have afforded an opportunity for public objection to any particular candidate being admitted to a degree. When the notional vote has been taken, the Proctors return to their places and the Senior Proctor announces:

*Hae Gratiae concessae sunt et sic eas pronuntiamus concessas.*

*These Graces have been granted and we so pronounce them granted.*

### Many graduates from the University of Oxford have gone on to make major contributions to the world

Oxford's graduates count among their numbers 28 British prime ministers as well as the present and former heads of state of many other countries. In addition, 29 Nobel Prize winners have graduated from the University and the successes of many others took place while at Oxford. Other alumni have achieved eminence in business, the professions, politics and the arts. Oxford graduates also take a lead in the teaching and research of universities throughout the world.

## Famous alumni

**Monica Ali**  
Writer and novelist  
Wadham College



### Degrees in absentia

The Vice-Chancellor then rises and admits all those who have supplicated in their absence.

*Ego Vice-Cancellaria, auctoritate mea et totius Universitatis, admitto ad eum gradum quem quisque petat eos quibus etiam in absentia supplicare licuit ut per schedulas rite a Registrario publicatas satis apparet.*

*I, Vice-Chancellor, by my own authority and by that of the whole University, hereby admit all those allowed to supplicate in absentia to the degrees that they seek, as made sufficiently clear in the lists duly published by the Registrar.*

### Presentation

Candidates are presented to the Vice-Chancellor and Proctors by a presenter, not according to their college, but in groups according to the degree they are to receive. The Bedel calls out the title of the presenter for the highest degree for which there is any candidate. Presenters stand to the left of their candidates and, taking the right hand of the nearest candidate, they pronounce the formula of presentation to the Vice-Chancellor and the Proctors, to each of whom presenter and candidates bow in turn.

*Insignissima Vice-Cancellaria, vosque egregii Procuratores, praesento vobis hos meos scholares in Facultate Artium, ut admittantur ad Gradum Doctoris in Philosophia.*

*Most Distinguished Vice-Chancellor, and you, most excellent Proctors, I present to you these my scholars in the Faculty of Arts, that they may be admitted to the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy.*

Candidates for higher degrees are presented as follows:

the DD and BD by the Regius Professor of Divinity, or deputy

the DCL, BCL and MJur by the Regius Professor of Civil Law, or deputy

the DM, MCh and BM BCh by the Regius Professor of Medicine, or deputy

the DLitt by the Regius Professor of Greek, or deputy

the DSc by the Sedleian Professor of Natural Philosophy, or deputy

the DMus by the Heather Professor of Music, or deputy

the DPhil and DEng by the college Deans of Degrees

the DCLinPsych by the Principal of Harris Manchester College, or deputy

### Admission

Candidates stand in front of the Junior Proctor. The DD, DCL, DM and MCh candidates swear an oath binding them to be loyal, obedient and faithful to the University and its interests, and to comport themselves circumspectly at elections to University offices. The Junior Proctor invites them to swear an oath by administering a charge:

*Domini Doctores (Magistri vel Domini), vos dabit is fidem ad observandum statuta, privilegia, consuetudines et libertates istius Universitatis. Item quod quum admissi fueritis in domum Congregationis et in domum Convocationis, in iisdem bene et fideliter, ad honorem et profectum Universitatis, vos geretis. Et specialiter quod in negotiis quae ad Gratias et Gradus spectant, non impedietis dignos, nec indignos promovebitis. Item quod in electionibus habendis unum tantum semel et non amplius in singulis scrutiniis scribetis et nominabitis; et quod neminem nominabitis nisi quem habilem et idoneum certo sciveritis vel firmiter credideritis.*

*Doctors (Masters or ladies/gentlemen), you shall swear to observe the statutes, privileges, customs and liberties of this University. Also when you shall have been admitted to the House of Congregation and to the House of Convocation you shall bear yourselves in them well and faithfully to the honour and profit of the University. And especially in those matters which concern Graces and Degrees you shall not impede the worthy or put forward the unworthy. Also at elections you shall record and nominate one only at one time and no more in each scrutiny, and nominate no one unless you know certainly or believe firmly that s/he is fit and proper.*

The candidates reply: *Do fidem • I swear*

For other higher degree candidates the Junior Proctor will administer the charge:

*Vos dabit is fidem ad observandum omnia statuta, privilegia, consuetudines et libertates istius Universitatis, quatenus ad vos spectent.*

*You shall swear to observe the statutes, privileges, customs and liberties of the University, as far as they concern you.*

The candidates reply: *Do fidem • I swear*

## Famous alumni

**Sir Tim Berners-Lee**  
Inventor of the World Wide Web  
The Queen's College



## Candidates for degrees of DD, DCL, DM and MCh

Candidates stand in front of the Vice-Chancellor, who admits them by pronouncing the formula

*Ad honorem Domini nostri Jesu Christi, et ad profectum Sacrosanctae Matris Ecclesiae et studii, ego auctoritate mea et totius Universitatis do vobis licentiam incipiendi in Facultate Artium (vel Facultate Chirurgiae, Medicinae, Juris, Sacrae Theologiae) legendi, disputandi, et caetera omnia faciendi, quae ad statum Magistri (vel Doctoris) in eadem facultate pertinent, cum ea completa sint quae per statuta requiruntur: in nomine Domini, Patris, et Filii, et Spiritus Sancti.*

*To the honour of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and for the profit of our Holy Mother Church, and of learning, I, by my own authority and that of the whole University, give you licence to incept [begin to teach] in the Faculty of Arts (or Faculty of Surgery, Medicine, Law or Theology) to lecture, to dispute and to do all the other things that pertain to the rank of Master (or Doctor) in the same Faculty, when those things have been completed which the Statutes require, in the name of the Lord – Father, and Son, and Holy Ghost.*

In groups of four or fewer, those candidates who profess the Christian faith then kneel in front of the Vice-Chancellor, who touches each one on the head with a New Testament, admitting them using the formula 'In the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost'. Other candidates may request in advance to be admitted with a non-Christian form of words.



## Candidates for degrees of DLitt, DSc, DMus, DPhil, DCLinPsych, DEng, BD, MJur, BCL and BM BCh

Candidates are admitted standing, the Vice-Chancellor reciting the relevant formula:

*Domine/Magister/Domini/Magistri, ego auctoritate mea et totius Universitatis do tibi/vobis licentiam incipiendi in facultate Musicae.*

*Ladies/gentlemen/Masters, by virtue of my own authority and that of the whole University, I give you permission to incept in the Faculty of Music.*

Or:

*Domine/Magister/Domini/Magistri, ego admitto te /vos ad gradum Doctoris in Litteris/Scientia/Philosophia/Psychologia Medica/Ingeniaria.*

*Ladies/gentlemen/Masters, I admit you to the degree of Doctor of Letters/Science/Philosophy/Clinical Psychology/Engineering.*

Or:

*Domine/Magister/Domini/Magistri, ego admitto te/vos ad gradum Baccalaurei in S. Theologia/Jure Civili/Medicina.*

*Ladies/gentlemen/Masters, I admit you to the degree of Bachelor of Divinity/Civil Law/Medicine.*

Or:

*Domine/Magister/Domini/Magistri, ego admitto te/vos ad gradum Magistri Juris.*

*Ladies/gentlemen/Masters, I admit you to the degree of Magister Juris.*

The newly admitted graduates leave by the door to their right to put on the robes of their new degree. Later in the proceedings, the new graduates return by the door facing the Vice-Chancellor, preceded by a Bedel. The Vice-Chancellor shakes hands with each new Doctor of Philosophy in turn, and they then take their seats. Graduates in the other degrees bow to the Vice-Chancellor and Proctors.

Guests are encouraged to applaud all graduates as they return to the theatre.

## Masters' degrees

### Supplication

The Senior Proctor reads out the names of candidates who are supplicating for the degree of MA, as well as MSc, MLitt, MPhil, MSt, MTh, MBA, MFA, MPP, MBiochem, MChem, MCompSci, MCompPhil, MEarthSci, MEng, MMath, MMathCompSci, MMathPhil, MMathPhys, MPhys, MPhysPhil, BMus and BPhil. The Proctors take votes, as with higher degrees, and the Senior Proctor announces that the leave of Congregation has been granted.

### Candidates for the degree of MA

#### Presentation

College Deans of Degrees who have candidates are called upon by the Bedel to present them to the Vice-Chancellor in the same manner as a professor presenting candidates for a higher degree.

#### Admission

Standing in front of the Junior Proctor in groups of about 30, candidates swear an oath (*Do fidem*) binding them to be loyal, obedient and faithful to the University and its interests, and to comport themselves circumspectly at elections to University offices.

MA candidates are admitted by the Vice-Chancellor, using a similar formula as for the degrees of DD, DCL, DM and MCh. After admission, candidates leave by the door to their right to robe as MAs. Later in the proceedings they return in a procession, headed by a Bedel. The new MAs bow or curtsy to the Vice-Chancellor, before leaving by the door to their right.

### Candidates for the degrees of MSc, MLitt, MPhil, MSt, MTh, MBA, MFA, MPP, MBiochem, MChem, MCompSci, MCompPhil, MEarthSci, MEng, MMath, MMathCompSci, MMathPhil, MMathPhys, MPhys, MPhysPhil, BMus and BPhil

The candidates for these degrees are then presented in groups by a Dean of Degrees, charged by the Junior Proctor and admitted by the Vice-Chancellor (without kneeling).

### Famous alumni

**Mark Carney**  
Economist  
Nuffield and St Peter's Colleges



## Other bachelor degrees

### Supplication

The Junior Proctor reads the names of candidates who are supplicating for the degrees of BA, BFA and BTh. The Proctors take votes, as with higher and masters' degrees, and the Junior Proctor announces that the leave of Congregation has been granted.

### Candidates for degrees of BA, BFA and BTh

#### Presentation

BA candidates from each college are presented by its Dean of Degrees.

*Insignissima Vice-Cancellaria, vosque egregii Procuratores, praesento vobis hos meos scholares in Facultate Artium, ut admittantur ad Gradum Baccalaurei in Artibus.*

*Most distinguished Vice-Chancellor, and you, most excellent Proctors, I present to you these my scholars in the Faculty of Arts, that they may be admitted to the Degree of Bachelor of Arts.*

#### Admission

The Junior Proctor recites the oath to groups of about 30 at a time, after which they reply *Do fidem* (*I swear*) and are admitted to the degree by the Vice-Chancellor, who pronounces the formula

*Domini, ego admitto vos ad Gradum Baccalaurei in Artibus; insuper auctoritate mea et totius Universitatis, do vobis potestatem legendi, et reliqua omnia faciendi, quae ad eundem Gradum spectant.*

*Ladies/gentlemen, I admit you to the degree of Bachelor of Arts: furthermore by my own authority and that of the whole University, I give you the power of lecturing, and of doing all the other things which concern the said degree.*

After admission, the graduates bow to the Vice-Chancellor and leave by the door to their right.

Candidates for degrees of BFA and BTh are presented by the college Deans of Degrees, and charged and admitted as for BA candidates, except that the formula of admission by the Vice-Chancellor is:

*Domini, ego admitto vos ad gradum Baccalaurei in Bellis Artibus/Theologia.*

*Ladies/gentlemen, I admit you to the degree of Bachelor of Fine Art/Theology.*

All new graduates who have not already done so return in order of admission to bow to the Vice-Chancellor, and receive recognition from guests by way of applause.

## Glossary

**Congregation:** The University's Parliament.

**Council:** The Council is the executive governing body of the University, chaired by the Vice-Chancellor; it includes the Proctors, elected members of Congregation and four external members.

**Vice-Chancellor:** The Vice-Chancellor, who is elected by Congregation, is effectively the chief executive officer of the University.

**Proctors:** The two Proctors are elected annually and each appoint two Pro-Proctors who may act in their stead. They are charged with upholding the University's Statutes and ensuring compliance with its policies. They are also responsible for overseeing student conduct and examinations. The office dates back to the early 13th century at the latest.

**Registrar:** The Registrar is the principal administrator of the University.

**College Deans of Degrees:** Fellows who present the students from each respective college.

**Bedels:** There are in total six Bedels (four of whom are titled Divinity, Law, Medicine, Arts) who attend the Vice-Chancellor at degree ceremonies, at Congregation and on other occasions. Their office is one of the oldest in the University, dating back to the 13th century.





# Instructions for candidates

All you need to know to get  
through the day



## Instructions for candidates

### Presentation

After the Proctor has read out the supplicat (list of names) and the Proctors have walked down the House and returned, a Bedel will announce the names of degrees and colleges in turn. When the name of your degree and your college, hall or society is announced, file out quietly from your seats and stand on the right of your college Dean or presenter, if necessary in more than one row. The candidate closest to your Dean should clasp the Dean's right hand.

When presented to the Vice-Chancellor and Proctors, you should bow to the Vice-Chancellor, to the Senior Proctor on the Vice-Chancellor's right and to the Junior Proctor on her left.

### Admission

#### For the degrees of Doctor of Divinity, Doctor of Civil Law, Doctor of Medicine and Master of Surgery

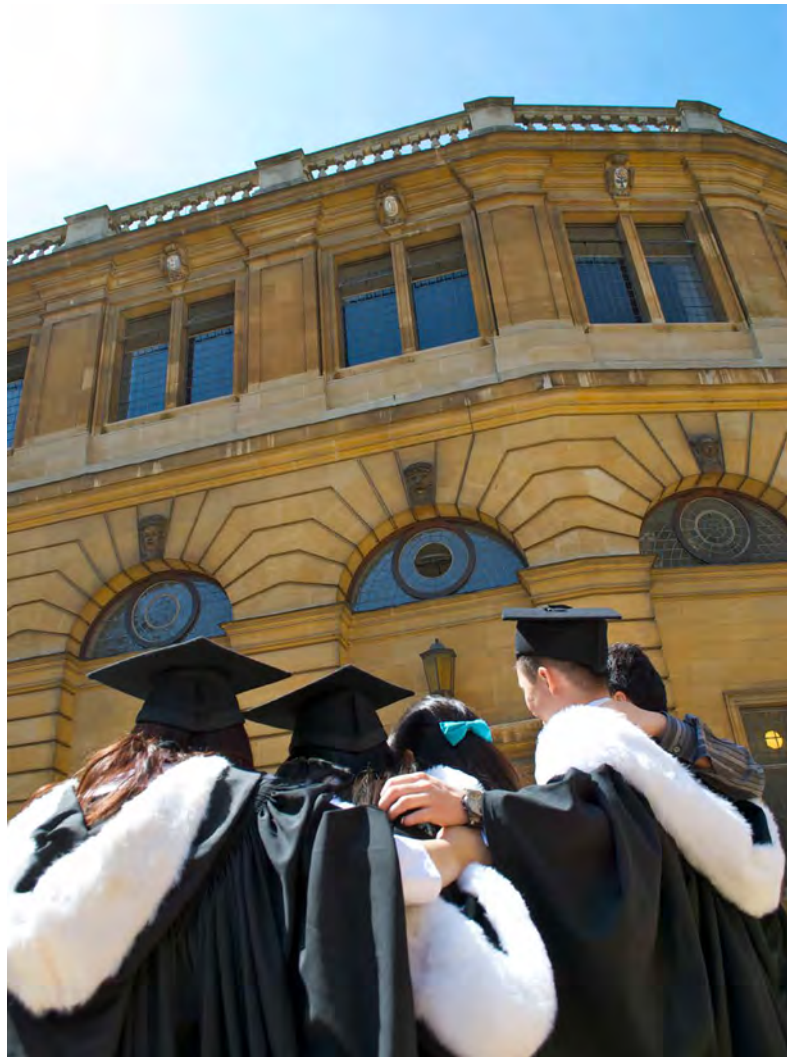
After presentation, you will receive the charge from the Junior Proctor. When this has been delivered, reply: *Do fidem (I swear)*.

After taking the oath, face the Vice-Chancellor who will then admit you. You will kneel in groups of up to four when instructed by the Bedels unless you have opted to receive the non-Christian formula, in which case stand facing the Vice-Chancellor who will admit you via an alternative Latin formula.

#### For the degree of Master of Arts

After presentation, you will receive the charge from the Junior Proctor in groups of about 30. Each college will present their own candidates, therefore you may be asked by the Bedels to move back, after presentation, towards the main door of the building (leaving room for others to pass) until the candidates from the last college of your group have been presented. When called by the Bedel, you will then come forward to the Junior Proctor in rows of four to hear the charge. When this has been delivered, reply: *Do fidem (I swear)*.

After taking the oath, face the Vice-Chancellor who will then admit you. You will kneel in groups of up to four when instructed by the Bedels unless you have opted to receive the non-Christian formula, in which case stand facing the Vice-Chancellor who will admit you via an alternative Latin formula.



### Famous alumni

**Stephen Hawking**  
Physicist  
University College



For the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Undergraduate Masters (Master of Biochemistry, Chemistry, Computer Science, Computer Science and Philosophy, Earth Sciences, Engineering, Mathematics, Mathematics and Computer Science, Mathematics and Philosophy, Mathematics and Theoretical Physics, Physics, and Physics and Philosophy)

After presentation, you will receive the charge from the Junior Proctor in groups of about 30. Each college will present their own candidates, therefore you may be asked by the Bedels to move back, after presentation, towards the main door of the building (leaving room for others to pass) until the candidates from the last college of your group have been presented. When called by the Bedel, you will then come forward to the Junior Proctor in rows of four to hear the charge. When this has been delivered, reply: *Do fidem (I swear)*.

After taking the oath, face the Vice-Chancellor who will then admit you.

## For all other degrees

After presentation, you will receive the charge from the Junior Proctor. When this has been delivered, reply: *Do fidem (I swear)*.

After taking the oath, face the Vice-Chancellor who will then admit you.

## Gowning and returning for acknowledgement

After admission, pass through the East door, ie the small door on your right, don the gown and hood of your newly conferred degree, and re-assemble at the South door. You will later come back in, again in rows of four, with a Bedel leading the procession. On being stopped by the Bedel the front four will bow (or curtsy) to the Vice-Chancellor only, and retire once more through the East door. The second row will at once move into the place of the first group, bow and retire, and so on.



## Famous alumni

**Dorothy Hodgkin**  
Nobel Laureate in Chemistry  
Somerville College

## Dress

When being presented for a degree, a candidate wears full academic dress with subfusc clothing:

- a dark suit with dark socks, or a dark skirt with black stockings or trousers with dark socks and an optional dark coat;
- black shoes;
- a plain white collared shirt;
- a white or black bow tie, black full-length tie, or black ribbon.

Dress should be such as might be appropriate for formal occasions.

Candidates wearing the square cap should remove it on entering the Sheldonian Theatre; those choosing to wear the soft cap may leave it on.

Candidates serving in HM forces are permitted to wear uniform together with a gown. (The uniform cap is worn in the street and carried when indoors.)

Ministers of religion may wear clerical dress, with a gown over, when attending ceremonies.

If you wear a headdress/scarf for religious reasons, a black scarf should be worn.





# Academic Dress and the Sheldonian Theatre

A short introduction to academic dress and the Sheldonian Theatre





**Top row:** MTh graduate,  
BM BCh graduate, BA graduate,  
MFA graduate

**Bottom row:**  
MSt graduate, MA graduate,  
DPhil graduate

Academic dress is obligatory at formal University ceremonies and for University examinations, as well as at some official meetings.

Subfusc clothing (a dark suit with dark socks, or a dark skirt with black stockings or trousers with dark socks and an optional dark coat; black shoes; a plain white shirt with a collar; a black tie or white bow tie) is worn with full academic dress.

The form of academic robes may be traced back to medieval Europe, when dress marked out the rank and profession of the wearer. In fact, the dress worn today at Oxford is very much the same as that worn in medieval times. The last main modifications were made during the 16th century. The common roots can be seen, for example, in the striking similarity between the formal undergraduate dress of Portugal's oldest university, Coimbra, founded in 1290, and the subfusc worn by Oxford undergraduates. Although styles evolved differently in the various European countries, the key difference is in the headdress, which was added after the hood ceased to be operational. Thus the so-called mortarboard or square cap is, in Europe, mainly worn in Britain. In Spain and Italy, doctors wear a fez-shaped hat, often completely covered with tassels. In France, they wear a tucked and fluted 'pillbox', while in Scandinavia doctors wear a tucked top hat. Different versions of the flat bonnet are worn by doctors in the Netherlands and various countries in Central Europe. In Oxford, those holding DCL, DM and DMus degrees also wear different versions of the bonnet.

In many other parts of the world, academic dress tends to follow styles worn by those European universities to which they were most closely linked at the time. Of course, modifications based on local tradition or history are also usually apparent. The older forms of academic dress adopt colours which were readily available in the past, as well as those which were harder to acquire, including scarlets and blues, which were consequently significant markers of status. Thus strong primary colours are common alongside black, white and purple. One crucial aim is for the academic dress to be

distinctive enough to be linked to a single institution. But there are no universal rules. All universities strive for distinction, but differences appear to be less marked as the number of universities increases. However, it is also apparent that some newer universities are opting to move right away from the traditional, historical form of academic dress to achieve such distinction.

The colour, indeed the flamboyance, of academic dress undoubtedly adds to the sense of occasion at academic ceremonies. But as the late Sir Richard Southwood, a former Vice-Chancellor (1989–93), observed, historical roots exemplify a much deeper significance. They are an outward sign of the universality of universities, of their responsibility for certain timeless values essential to the freedom of enquiry: tolerance of alternative views and courage in maintaining one's own. The new graduate also has the responsibility of maintaining and upholding these ideals, which in Oxford are incorporated in the charge which the Junior Proctor reads to candidates on their admission to graduate status.

These fundamentals of academic freedom have not been threatened in this country for more than 300 years, but Sir Richard was much impressed by the importance attached to the wearing of traditional academic dress by colleagues from central and eastern Europe during the Cold War. Wearing academic dress became a symbol of their refusal to be dominated completely by political forces and the state, and of their persistent links to the worldwide community of scholars.

In short, the wearing of academic dress should be seen not simply as a sign of achievement, but as a collective symbol of the responsibility which falls on all members of universities.

Based on the Foreword to  
*Academic Dress of the  
University of Oxford*



## Famous alumni

**Dame Emma Kirkby**  
Soprano  
Somerville College



The Sheldonian Theatre is the principal assembly room of the University, and the regular meeting place of Congregation, the body which controls the University's affairs. All public ceremonies of the University are performed here, notably the annual Encaenia, or commemoration.

The University acquired the site soon after the Restoration, and in 1664–7 the present theatre was erected. Gilbert Sheldon, Archbishop of Canterbury and a former Warden of All Souls, met the entire cost of £12,000 and so gave his name to the building.

The architect was a young Christopher Wren, then Professor of Astronomy at Oxford, with as yet little practical experience of building. Inspired by drawings of Roman theatres, he adopted their D-shaped plan. However, the open arena of Rome, unsuited to the English climate, had to be covered. To do this without introducing load-bearing columns into the central space, which would ruin the resemblance to an ancient theatre, Wren designed a roof truss able to span the required 70 feet, a technical achievement which gained him great credit in scientific and architectural circles and made the roof of the Sheldonian a landmark in roof construction.

From below, this technical ingenuity was, however, concealed from view by the painted ceiling. The painter of the ceiling, Robert Streater, adapted his ambitious baroque composition to Wren's conception of the building as a Roman theatre open to the sky. The theatres of antiquity were protected from the sun and rain by a large awning supported by a network of cords. In the Sheldonian these cords are lavishly gilded and in high relief. From them, putti roll back a vast crimson awning, revealing the triumph of the Arts and Sciences over Envy, Rapine and 'brutish scoffing Ignorance'.

In planning the interior, Wren made another deviation from his Roman original. There is no stage against the flat southern wall, and the focus of attention is the Chancellor's chair in the middle of the semicircular end. Thus the functions of the auditorium and stage are reversed and, however Roman the plan may be, it has been freely adapted for academic purposes by an architect who never allowed his deference to classical prototypes to degenerate into pedantry.



The two elaborately carved and gilded boxes which face each other across the auditorium were intended to be occupied on ceremonial occasions by the two Proctors of the University (these are no longer used). On the front of the boxes, the 'fasces', or bundles of rods bound round an axe, protrude from lions' heads. These were Roman symbols of authority, here representing that of the Proctors.

It is probable that Wren intended his treatment of the flat façade facing the Divinity School, with columns on the lower storey and pilasters on the storey above, to be carried on round the polygonal exterior of the building, but this proved to be beyond Archbishop Sheldon's purse and classical display had to be restricted to the southern wall.

Reproduced with kind permission of the author, Sir Howard Colvin, from *The Sheldonian Theatre and the Divinity School*.

Restoration work has been continuing for some years in the Sheldonian. For information about the Sheldonian and its restoration visit: [www.ox.ac.uk/sheldonian](http://www.ox.ac.uk/sheldonian).



## Famous alumni

**Kumi Naidoo**

Human rights and environmental activist  
Magdalen College









# Life after Oxford

Congratulations on completing  
your studies



## Welcome to your alumni community

You are now part of a community of more than 350,000 Oxford alumni, and you can benefit from many exclusive opportunities. From lifelong careers advice and events about the latest research to access to electronic journals and discounts, Oxford is here to help you succeed.

### All Oxford alumni can:

- access lifelong careers support provided by the Careers Service, including one-to-one advice sessions delivered via Skype
- benefit from Oxford Alumni Card discounts, including 15% off at Blackwell's
- keep up to date with news about Oxford and other Oxonians via monthly email newsletters

There are over 150 global alumni groups who act as regional ambassadors and trusted advocates for the University and are run by dedicated alumni volunteers. Groups also support current and prospective students and help to keep Oxonians connected to the University and to each other, wherever they reside or through shared interests. Find out more and join a group!

[www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/alumni-groups](http://www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/alumni-groups)

## Stay in touch

In order not to miss out on any of these benefits and to keep in touch with Oxford, please let us know your address and contact details. You can register for an alumni account and update your details at [www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/my-oxford](http://www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/my-oxford)

You can also contact us by email at [enquiries@alumni.ox.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@alumni.ox.ac.uk)

## Graduate Outcomes survey

Now you've graduated, do look out for emails about the Graduate Outcomes survey (GO). GO is a survey required and managed by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). The responses will provide current and future students with valuable insights into graduates' career destinations and help us evaluate our own courses here at Oxford.

For more information visit:  
[www.alumni.ox.ac.uk](http://www.alumni.ox.ac.uk).

Good luck and stay in touch.



## Live streaming, photography and video footage of this Ceremony

This degree ceremony is being professionally filmed and streamed live on the internet at [www.livestream.com/oxevents](http://www.livestream.com/oxevents) so that this day can be shared with those that cannot be here today.

The focus of the filming will be on the ceremony proceedings, however guests may occasionally be captured by the camera. DVDs and digital downloads of the ceremony will be available to purchase online after the conclusion of the ceremony.

Visitors are requested to remain in their places until the conclusion of the ceremony and are encouraged to refrain from taking photographs and recording videos as this is disruptive for other audience members.

More information about the University of Oxford's student privacy policy can be found at <https://compliance.admin.ox.ac.uk/student-privacy-policy>

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## Degree certificates

Each graduate is entitled to one copy free of charge of a standard certificate for each degree which has formally been conferred on them, whether in person or in absentia.

For more information about degree certificates visit:  
[www.ox.ac.uk/students/graduation/certificates](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/graduation/certificates).











































### Famous alumni

**Ruth Hunt**  
Baroness Hunt of Bethnal Green  
St Hilda's College



## The degrees currently conferred by the University are:

 <b>DD</b> <b>Doctor of Divinity</b> <i>Scarlet cloth lined with black art silk</i>	 <b>MJur</b> <b>Magister Juris</b> / <i>Blue poplin, art silk half-lined and edged with white fur fabric</i>
 <b>DCL</b> <b>Doctor of Civil Law</b> <i>Scarlet cloth lined with scarlet art silk</i>	 <b>BCL</b> <b>Bachelor of Civil Law</b> / <i>Blue poplin, art silk half-lined and edged with white fur fabric</i>
 <b>DM</b> <b>Doctor of Medicine</b> <i>Scarlet cloth lined with scarlet art silk</i>	 <b>BM BCh</b> <b>Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery</b> <i>Blue poplin, art silk half-lined and edged with white fur fabric</i>
 <b>DLitt</b> <b>Doctor of Letters</b> <i>Scarlet cloth lined with neutral grey art silk</i>	 <b>MBiochem</b> <b>Master of Biochemistry</b> <i>Black art silk edged and lined with sand art silk</i>
 <b>DSc</b> <b>Doctor of Science</b> <i>Scarlet cloth lined with neutral grey art silk</i>	 <b>MChem</b> <b>Master of Chemistry</b> <i>Black art silk edged and lined with sand art silk</i>
 <b>DMus</b> <b>Doctor of Music</b> / <i>Cream satin brocade art silk lined with cherry-coloured art silk</i>	 <b>MCompSci</b> <b>Master of Computer Science</b> <i>Black art silk edged and lined with sand art silk</i>
 <b>DPhil</b> <b>Doctor of Philosophy</b> <i>Scarlet cloth lined with navy blue art silk</i>	 <b>MCompPhil</b> <b>Master of Computer Science and Philosophy</b> <i>Black art silk edged and lined with sand art silk</i>
 <b>DClinPsych</b> <b>Doctor of Clinical Psychology</b> <i>Blue art silk edged and lined with scarlet art silk</i>	 <b>MEarthSci</b> <b>Master of Earth Sciences</b> <i>Black art silk edged and lined with sand art silk</i>
 <b>DEng</b> <b>Doctor of Engineering</b> / <i>Scarlet cloth edged with grey and lined with petrol blue art silk</i>	 <b>MEng</b> <b>Master of Engineering</b> <i>Black art silk edged and lined with sand art silk</i>
 <b>MA</b> <b>Master of Arts</b> / <i>Black art silk lined with crimson or shot crimson art silk</i>	 <b>MMath</b> <b>Master of Mathematics</b> <i>Black art silk edged and lined with sand art silk</i>
 <b>MCh</b> <b>Master of Surgery</b> <i>Black silk lined and bound with blue art silk</i>	 <b>MMathCompSci</b> <b>Master of Mathematics and Computer Science</b> <i>Black art silk edged and lined with sand art silk</i>
 <b>MSc</b> <b>Master of Science</b> <i>Blue art silk edged and lined with grey art silk</i>	 <b>MMathPhil</b> <b>Master of Mathematics and Philosophy</b> <i>Black art silk edged and lined with sand art silk</i>
 <b>MLitt</b> <b>Master of Letters</b> <i>Blue art silk edged and lined with grey art silk</i>	 <b>MMathPhys</b> <b>Master of Mathematical and Theoretical Physics</b> <i>Black art silk edged and lined with sand art silk</i>
 <b>MPhil</b> <b>Master of Philosophy</b> <i>Dark blue art silk lined with white art silk</i>	 <b>MPhys</b> <b>Master of Physics</b> <i>Black art silk edged and lined with sand art silk</i>
 <b>MSt</b> <b>Master of Studies</b> <i>Deep green art silk lined with white art silk</i>	 <b>MPhysPhil</b> <b>Master of Physics and Philosophy</b> <i>Black art silk edged and lined with sand art silk</i>
 <b>MTh</b> <b>Master of Theology</b> <i>Black art silk lined with magenta art silk</i>	 <b>BMus</b> <b>Bachelor of Music</b> / <i>Lilac art silk half-lined and edged with white fur fabric</i>
 <b>MBA</b> <b>Master of Business Administration</b> <i>Claret art silk lined with dark grey art silk</i>	 <b>BPhil</b> <b>Bachelor of Philosophy</b> <i>Dark blue art silk lined with white art silk</i>
 <b>MFA</b> <b>Master of Fine Art</b> / <i>Gold art silk edged and lined with white art silk</i>	 <b>BA</b> <b>Bachelor of Arts</b> / <i>Black poplin, art silk trimmed with white fur fabric</i>
 <b>MPP</b> <b>Master of Public Policy</b> <i>Dark blue art silk lined with silver art silk</i>	 <b>BFA</b> <b>Bachelor of Fine Art</b> / <i>Black art silk with a narrow band of gold silk inside</i>
 <b>BD</b> <b>Bachelor of Divinity</b> <i>Black silk lined with a lightweight black art silk</i>	 <b>BTh</b> <b>Bachelor of Theology</b> / <i>Black art silk with a narrow band of magenta art silk inside</i>

### Photographs

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"I felt, and feel, incredibly proud to have studied here  
as an undergraduate. I was taught to challenge  
and I was challenged in return"

*Baroness Hunt of Bethnal Green*