

ACADEMICAL DRESS FOR GRADUATION



Academical Dress

As graduation is a formal occasion, an appropriate standard of dress is expected and, if you do not observe it, you may not be permitted to graduate on a particular occasion.

Academical dress consists of a gown, hood and one of two dress options (see below). Undergraduates and affiliated students should wear a Trinity Hall undergraduate gown and the hood of the highest degree that they are about to receive.

Postgraduate candidates should wear either the gown and hood of their highest existing Cambridge degree or, if not already a Cambridge graduate, a BA or MA status gown and the hood of the highest degree they are about to take.

The square cap, or 'mortarboard', is optional. If you do decide to wear one, you should take it off and carry it in your left hand inside the Senate House.

More information is provided on the [University website](#).

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. Shoes with large accessories such as bows or diamante 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. Shoes with large accessories such as bows or diamante 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. If wearing trousers a jacket must also be worn in order to wear a bow-tie and bands.



The Praelector's Recommendations

In the photo, Dress Option One can be seen on the right, Dress Option Two on the left. Both students are wearing the undergraduate gown and hood. Both graduands have also opted for a mortarboard, which is optional though most students choose not to wear one.

Graduation attire needs to be clean, neat and tidy, and must conform to the regulations. It's easiest to stick to black shoes, black suits, black dresses/skirts, black socks, and white shirts, blouses, bow-ties and bands. Where applicable, items should be well ironed.

Suits & Dresses

These should be entirely black suits, skirts, trouser suits and dresses. The look should match the gown as much as possible.

Shirts & Blouses

Shirts and blouses should be white, long sleeved and without any pattern. For Dress Option One, the shirt should be collared.

Socks & Tights

Ideally keep these black and un-patterned. Natural-coloured tights are also acceptable, but bare legs are not permitted.

Shoes

Shoes should be wholly black, formal, without buckles, and should not be trainers, sports shoes, boots or sandals. They should leave the ankles uncovered. High heels should be avoided as they can be impractical, especially for kneeling in the Senate House. Make sure the shoes are clean.

Jewellery

Conspicuous jewellery and hair accessories are not permitted. Stick to simple and elegant.



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The correct Dress Options One and Two on display as graduands process to the Senate House

National, military and clerical dress

National, military or clerical dress may be worn at graduation, but this must be arranged in advance with the permission of the University Proctors via the Tutorial Office. Please indicate on the sign-up form if you wish to request permission for this.

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

Academical Dress Hire

Gowns and hoods can be hired from either of the following Cambridge suppliers:

Ryder & Amies

22 King's Parade, Cambridge CB2 1SP

Web www.ryderamies.co.uk

Email sales@ryderamies.co.uk

Ede & Ravenscroft

70-72 Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1RJ

Web www.gownhire.co.uk

Phone 01223 350048 (shop) or 01223 861854