

Mrs Liz Pentlow
Alumni Officer



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MA CEREMONY: SATURDAY 29 MARCH 2025

Undergraduates who matriculated in 2018 and have graduated are now able to book to take the MA degree on **Saturday 29 March 2025**. The degree can be taken in person or in absence and the ceremony will be followed by a formal reunion dinner in College that evening.

The exact timing of the ceremony will only be known the week before the event, but the Trinity Hall contingent usually proceeds to the Senate House late morning.

If you decide to take your MA in person, we will be taking a group photo before the line-up, and the line-up itself will be in College at least half an hour before the ceremony. Timings do vary, so please wait until the final confirmation before you make definitive arrangements for the day. The programme for the day will be confirmed by the 21 March at the latest.

On the day itself, make sure you arrive in Cambridge in good time and that you observe the dress and gown code as explained in the Academical Dress guidelines (included in this pack) otherwise you may not be allowed to proceed. Up to two guests can join you for the ceremony.

The College will serve light refreshments for all graduands and your guests, either before or after the ceremony, depending on the final timings. The refreshments will be free for alumni.

The day will end with a formal dinner in Hall for members of 2018. Previous MA dinners have been very popular, and we hope this one will be well-attended too. Space in the Dining Hall, as I'm sure you remember, is rather restricted, so it will be possible to bring one guest, but this will be on a first come-first served basis, with priority given to alumni. There will be a seating plan for the dinner, so please indicate on the booking form who you would like to sit with. We will do our best to accommodate all requests.

If you wish to take your MA (either in person or in absence) and attend the dinner, the cost will be £70. If you do not wish to attend the dinner, the cost of taking your MA, whether in person or in absentia, will be £20. You do not need to take the MA to be able to attend the dinner.

College rooms will be available for the night of Saturday 29 March, and you can choose from:

- single student rooms on Central Site (£60 bed & breakfast)
- double student rooms on Central Site (£80 bed & breakfast)
- single ensuite rooms at Wychfield (£60 room only | £70 bed & breakfast)
- double ensuite rooms at WYNG (£110 bed & breakfast)

If you wish to stay overnight, please choose your preferred option on the booking form and we will make every attempt to find a room for you in that location. Rooms will be allocated on a first come-first served basis. If you would like to stay on other nights, please contact Liz on alumni@trinhall.cam.ac.uk who can confirm availability.

If you wish to take your MA on this occasion, please complete the online booking form that can be accessed from www.trinhall.cam.ac.uk/college-events/ma-2018/ no later than 10am on Wednesday 12 March 2025.

This is the first official reunion for the Trinity Hall class of 2018 and we look forward to welcoming you back to College in the spring.

With best wishes,

Liz Pentlow

GOWN RENTAL OR PURCHASE

Please find below contact details for sites offering gown rental or purchase in Cambridge.

Please check individual websites for information about rental charges and purchase prices.

Ede & Ravenscroft (www.edeandravenscroft.co.uk)

70-72 Trumpington Street (corner of Silver Street)
Cambridge, CB2 1RJ

Tel: 01223 861854 or 01223 350048

Email: student@edeandravenscroft.co.uk

Online booking available at www.gownhire.co.uk

Opening hours: Mon-Sat: 9am-5.30pm

Ryder & Amies (www.ryderamies.co.uk)

22 King's Parade
Cambridge, CB2 1SP

Tel: 01223 350371

Email: sales@ryderamies.co.uk

Online booking available at www.ryderamies.co.uk/shop/robe-rentals/

Opening hours: Mon-Sat: 8.30am-6pm, Sun: 10am-6pm

More information about academical dress can be found on the University website at

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

ACADEMICAL DRESS

Dress at Congregations: advice to those proceeding to degree as instructed by the Proctors of the University of Cambridge.

The following rules apply to academical dress worn by those proceeding to degrees:

- 1) A person who already holds a degree or degrees of Cambridge University wears the gown and hood of the highest degree he or she has already received from this University.
- 2) Under no circumstances should the academical dress of another university be worn by the graduand.
- 3) The only form of head-dress which may be worn with academical dress (and the use of head-dress is optional) is the square, unless an exception is made for religious reasons. Graduates may not, however, wear a square in the Senate House; it must be carried.
- 4) Men will wear bands, except when national or religious dress (see over) would not allow it.

You must also pay attention to your non-academical dress as, unless you are correctly dressed, it will not be possible to present you for a degree. Your Praelector or Presenter is able to offer further advice on dress.

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 One or Two, but it must be worn with either a white bow-tie and bands or a clerical collar and bands.

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.

Jewellery

Conspicuous jewellery and hair accessories are not permitted.

National/religious dress

National or religious dress may be worn in exceptional cases by both men and women with academical dress, as an alternative to the dress indicated above. As an example: a person who wears a turban as part of their everyday attire will be allowed to wear the turban to his graduation. Hood and gown are still worn, but bands may not be appropriate.

Praelectors need to get approval for national or religious dress from the University Proctors so all parties involved (Alumni Officer, Praelector, Proctors) will need to be informed well before the date of the Congregation.