



Professor Richard Dance
The Praelector

January 2022

Proceeding to the Degree of MA 'in person'
Congregation on 25 March 2022

The Congregation at which St Catharine's, by tradition, will present most of its candidates for the Degree of MA will take place on Friday, 25 March 2022.

Following the national move to additional measures to combat the latest Covid-19 variant, and also a review of Degree Congregation procedure by the University's Safe Spaces Team, Colleges have been advised that Congregations will continue to take place in person but *without guests* until Easter Term 2022. Unfortunately that means that we are not able to welcome guests for the MA Degree ceremony this year. Family and friends will be able to watch the ceremony online as a live stream and as a recording.

Exact timings will not be published until a few days before the event, but the congregation will probably begin between 2.00 and 4.00 pm.

The Timetable will be posted on the Noticeboard by the Porters' Lodge.

Please be sure on your arrival to check and note the precise timing of events prior to Graduation. **This could vary by as much as an hour.**

- Graduands must plan to be ready and properly dressed for the ceremony by 1.30.
- Light refreshments will be available to purchase in Hall.
- **Please Note**, there may be other events taking place in College the same weekend, so graduands with overnight accommodation are encouraged to vacate their rooms as early as possible.

The University's official guidelines on dress at graduation may be consulted here:

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

Dress - Option 1

- A plain, dark suit (preferably black; dinner jacket suits are permitted). The suit must be dark enough not to contrast obviously with the black gown.
- A plain, long-sleeved white shirt (ordinary collars or winged collars are permitted), and white bow tie over academic bands (which should be worn over the top of the hood band).
- Plain black formal shoes (sandals are not permitted), and unpatterned black socks.
- Heavy jewellery should not be worn.
- Please also wear a BA gown and hood, and **NOT your undergraduate gown** (except candidates who hold a higher Cambridge degree, who should wear the gown and hood of that degree).

Dress - Option 2

- A plain, dark (preferably black) skirt suit, or trouser suit, or skirt without a jacket, or long-sleeved dress. These must be dark enough not to contrast obviously with the black gown, and skirts and dresses should reach *at least* to the knee.
- A plain, long-sleeved, white shirt/blouse (unless a long-sleeved dress is worn).
- Shoes must be unpatterned, black and formal (i.e. *not* sandals, boots or sling-backs, and nothing with very high heels, buckles or other decoration; toes should not be visible).
- Stockings/tights should be plain and of a dark or neutral colour. Bare legs are *not* permitted, and elbows should be covered.
- Heavy jewellery and conspicuous hair-grips should not be worn; earrings may be plain studs only.
- A white bow tie and academic bands may be worn (optional) *but only with a properly collared white shirt.*
- Please also wear a BA gown and hood, and **NOT your undergraduate gown** (except candidates who hold a higher Cambridge degree, who should wear the gown and hood of that degree).

NB safety pins are very useful for keeping the hood in place! Please also note that handbags are not permitted.

Clerks in Holy Orders may wear a cassock and clerical collar with bands (clerical bands are acceptable); dark trousers should be worn by men.

Gown Hire At: www.edeandravenscroft.com/cambridge

If you have any doubts about what is suitable, please contact the Praelector's Office. (Note that the Proctors are now much stricter about the dress code and failure to comply with these regulations will mean you cannot be presented, so it is therefore important that you check with us well in advance if you have any queries.)

Eve of Graduation Dinner on Thursday, 24 March 2022

(7.00 pm for 7.30 pm)

Dress for dinner will be formal (black tie and dinner jacket or equivalent).

Those who are graduating the next day do not wear gowns.

Diners are requested to remain seated throughout the duration of the meal.

Please submit your application form and payment online before 1 March 2022.

The College regrets that dinner and accommodation are only available to those taking their degrees in person.

The Governing Body regrets that it is not possible to provide any parking facilities.