



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE  
NEW UNIVERSITY

EST. 1891



# Scheme of Academic Dress

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**Approved by:** Council

**Date first published:** Jan-2008

**Owner:** University Secretary

**Date updated:** Mar-2024

**Review Date:** Mar-2029

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## Introduction

- 1 The wearing of academic dress is compulsory for students upon whom an award is being conferred. Officers of the University are required to wear the robes of their Office. Members of staff in the Graduation procession are required to wear the appropriate academic gown, hood and mortar board for their highest academic award. All other members of staff associated with the conferment process should be appropriately attired.
- 2 Students or staff may be exempt from wearing any aspects of academic dress that they are unable to wear on religious or cultural grounds. Students are only dressed with their permission. They are able to dress themselves, or request male/female dressing where needed.

## Academic Awards of the University

- 3 The University's academic dress for its academic awards is as follows:

Certificate of Higher Education,  
Diploma of Higher Education,  
Diploma in Professional Studies

Gown        Black stuff, Cambridge shape but without open  
                  forearm seam

Hood        Burgundy and Grey

Hat         Black cloth mortar board



Higher National Diploma,  
Higher National Certificate,  
Higher Technical Qualification,  
Diploma,

## Foundation Degree:

Gown	Black stuff, Cambridge shape but without open forearm seam
Hood	Burgundy and Grey
Hat	Black cloth mortar board



## Graduate Diploma

## Postgraduate Diploma

## Postgraduate Certificate

## Diploma In Management Studies

## Certificate In Management:

Gown	Black stuff, Cambridge shape but without open forearm seam
Hood	Cambridge full shape, silver grey outer fully lined black faced inside cowl edge with 50mm Buckinghamshire New University cardinal (red) velvet. Neckband is reversed to show velvet
Hat	Black cloth mortar board



## Bachelors Degree:

Gown	Black stuff, Cambridge shape but without open forearm seam
Hood	Special simple shape of cardinal (red) stuff, fully lined silver grey silk taffeta and faced inside with 50mm of Buckinghamshire New University cardinal (red) velvet, finished with silver grey cord piping at seam of cardinal (red) stuff and cardinal (red) velvet. Reversed band showing cardinal (red) velvet in front.
Hat	Black cloth mortar board



## Masters Degree,

Gown	Black stuff, Cambridge shape but with bottom of hanging sleeve cut straight
Hood	Cambridge shape, Buckinghamshire New University cardinal (red) wool panama outside, lined with silver grey silk taffeta and faced with 65mm Buckinghamshire New University cardinal (red) velvet, finished with old gold cord piping at seam of cardinal (red) stuff and cardinal (red) velvet
Hat	Black cloth mortar board

Please note: This includes 'undergraduate' Masters Degrees



## Doctor of Philosophy, DBA, EngD

Gown	Cardinal (red) stuff Oxford shape, with 100mm facings and 100mm cuffs of Buckinghamshire New University burgundy velvet
Hood	Cambridge shape, cardinal red, lined gold and edged black cord piping, faced inside 90mm Buckinghamshire New University burgundy velvet
Hat	Burgundy cloth bonnet, with black or gold rim and opposite colour for tassel

## Honorary Fellow

Gown	Black stuff KC shape with fronts and cape collar trimmed damask with 15mm edging in pewter lattice
Hood	No hood
Hat	Black Cloth Mortar Board

## Honorary Doctor

Gown	Oxford Doctors shape, cardinal red WP body with facings and sleeve ends all faced with 100mm cardinal red velvet
Hood	Cambridge full shape of cardinal red WP Fully Lined London Pharmacy gold, Cowl faced inside with 100mm cardinal red velvet. Cowl edge only is also piped with black cord. Neck band is faced with cardinal red and has to be worn reverse to show velvet is not piped
Hat	Tudor bonnet of cardinal red WP with a black WP brim. Worn with gold silk cord and tassels





## Research Degrees (Staffordshire)

- 4 The University's research degrees are currently awarded through Staffordshire University. Students graduating from these awards should wear the appropriate academic dress as below. This dress is drawn from the [Staffordshire Regulations](#).

### Master of Philosophy (MPhil)

- Gown** The gowns worn by holders of Master of Philosophy shall be grey stuff in Cambridge style, with blue facings.
- Hood** The hoods for holders of Masters degrees shall be red, Cambridge shape, fully lined with burgundy, cape and cowl turned out.
- Hat** The hats worn by holders of Masters Degrees shall be grey mortarboard with grey tassel.



### Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

- Gown** The gowns worn by holders of Doctorates shall be of scarlet in Cambridge Doctor style, but with no taffeta trim to sleeves and facings.
- Hood** The hoods for holders of Doctorates shall be scarlet, full shape, lined blue, cape and cowl turned out, with strap lined both sides with blue.
- Hat** The hats worn by holders of Doctorates shall be scarlet velvet bonnets with blue cord and tassel.



## Research Degrees (Coventry)

- 5 The University has also awarded doctorate degrees through Coventry University. Students graduating from these programmes should wear the academic dress below:

Gown	Blue Doctors robe, sleeves and facings lined with Coventry embossed gold silk.
Hood	Full shape blue hood fully lined Coventry embossed gold silk
Hat	Blue cloth bonnet with gold cord and tassel





## Officers of the University

6 The academic dress of the Officers of the University is as follows:

### Chancellor

- Gown** Black Damask KC shape, facings, cape collar, sleeve ends and the bottom of the robe including the back slit are trimmed with 2.5" gold lace. Sleeve cuts trimmed with 0.5" gold lace and two gold ornaments are laid across each cut. Three 7" gold ornaments are laid parallel on each lower sleeve panel. Shoulder wings are embroidered with the traditional gold acorn pattern with gold wires.
- Hat** Black damask bonnet with gold bullion cord and tassel.



### Pro Chancellor

- Gown** Black Damask KC shape, facings, cape collar, sleeve ends and the bottom of the robe not including the back slit are trimmed with 2" gold lace. Sleeve cuts trimmed with 0.5" gold lace and two gold ornaments are laid across each cut. One gold rosette 4" in diameter is applied central to each lower sleeve panel. Shoulder wings are trimmed with 0.5" gold lace.
- Hat** Black damask bonnet with gold bullion cord and tassel.



## Chair of Council

- Gown** Black Damask KC shape, facings, cape collar, sleeve ends and the bottom of the robe not including the back slit are trimmed with 2” gold lace. Sleeve cuts trimmed with 0.5” gold lace and one gold ornaments is laid across each cut. Shoulder wings are trimmed with 0.5” gold lace.
- Hat** Black damask bonnet with gold bullion cord and tassel.



## Vice-Chancellor

- Gown** Black Damask KC shape, facings, cape collar, sleeve ends and the bottom of the robe including the back slit are trimmed with 1.5” gold lace. Sleeve cuts trimmed with 0.5” gold lace and two gold ornaments are laid across each cut. Two 7” gold ornaments are laid parallel on each lower sleeve panel. Shoulder wings are embroidered with the traditional gold acorn pattern with gold wires.
- Hat** Black damask bonnet with gold bullion cord and tassel.



## Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Pro Vice-Chancellor

- Gown** Black Damask KC shape, facings, cape collar, sleeve ends are trimmed with 1” gold lace. Sleeve cuts trimmed with 0.5” gold lace. Two 7” gold ornaments are laid parallel on each lower sleeve panel.
- Hat** Black damask bonnet with gold bullion cord and tassel



## Equality Impact Assessment

<b>1. What is changing and why?</b>				
Updates to the Scheme to reflect the degrees currently awarded by the University and include the gowns of the Officers of the University. Intended to bring the Scheme in line with current practice.				
<b>2. What do you know?</b>				
The SoAD may have several impacts on different groups. The policy has been written with this in mind. Ultimately, the intention of this policy is to ensure that all graduates and officers are appropriately attired to receive their degrees.				
<b>3. Assessing the impact</b>				
	<b>Could benefit</b>	<b>May adversely impact</b>	<b>What does this mean?</b> <i>Impacts identified from what you know (actual and potential)</i>	<b>What can you do?</b> <i>Actions (or why no action is possible) to advance equality of opportunity, eliminate discrimination, and foster good relations</i>
a) How could this affect different ethnicities? <i>Including Gypsy, Roma, Traveller, Showmen and Boaters, migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Scheme does not have a particular impact on those of differing ethnicities, but includes provision for those unable to wear academic dress on cultural grounds.	See paragraph 2 of the policy – students will not be required to wear anything that they do not wish to or do not feel comfortable wearing on cultural or religious grounds.
b) How could this affect cisgender and transgender men and women (including maternity/pregnancy impact), as well as non-binary people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The Scheme does not impact gender as all of the University's gowns and robes are gender neutral.	Students are able to request male/female dressing assistance if it is desired.
c) How could this affect disabled people or carers? <i>Including neurodiversity, invisible disabilities and mental health conditions.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	This Scheme does not impact disabled people directly.	Where disabled graduates may need assistance with the gowning process, staff from the University and Ede and Ravenscroft are present.

d) How could this affect people from different faith groups?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The policy includes provision for those who are unable to wear University Academic Dress on religious grounds.	See paragraph 2 – the University’s gowning partner, Ede and Ravenscroft have also clarified that their staff do not enforce any item a student does not want to wear for religious reasons, and will only dress students with their permission. Students are able to dress themselves, or request male/female dressing where needed.
e) How could this affect people with different sexual orientations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	This policy does not impact those of differing sexual orientations.	
f) How could this affect different age groups or generations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	This policy does not impact those of different age groups or generations differently.	
g) How could this affect those who are married or in a civil partnership?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	This policy does not impact those who are married or in a civil partnership differently.	
h) How could this affect people from different backgrounds such as: socio-economic disadvantage, homeless, alcohol and/or substance misuse, people experiencing domestic and/or sexual violence, ex-armed forces, looked after children and care leavers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	This policy may impact those from socio-economic disadvantage due to the cost associated with academic dress.	Students who require help with the costs of gown hire can apply for hardship funding through the University’s Financial Aid – Emergency and Hardship funds.
i) How could this affect people with multiple intersectional experiences?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	This policy does not impact those with intersectional experiences outside of those outlined above.	
<b>4. Overall outcome</b>				
No major change needed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Adjust approach <input type="checkbox"/>	Adverse impact but continue <input type="checkbox"/>	Stop and remove <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>5. Details of further actions needed</b>				



When the University successfully achieves its own Research Degree Awarding Powers this Scheme will be updated with the University’s own research degree gowns. If further programmes are developed with the University’s validating partner for research degrees, the Scheme will be reviewed to ensure any new gowns for research degrees.

**6. Arrangements for delivery and future monitoring**

The Scheme will be published on the website and reviewed in accordance with its review cycle.

<b>7. Completed by:</b>	Paul Robson	Committee Officer	<b>Date</b>	<b>22/03/2024</b>
<b>8. Signed off by:</b>	Dr Emma Tomsett	University Secretariat Manager	<b>Date</b>	<b>04/04/2024</b>



**High Wycombe Campus**  
Queen Alexandra Road  
High Wycombe  
Buckinghamshire  
HP11 2JZ

**Aylesbury Campus**  
59 Walton Street  
Aylesbury  
Buckinghamshire  
HP21 7QG

**Uxbridge Campus**  
106 Oxford Road  
Uxbridge  
Middlesex  
UB8 1NA

**BNU based at  
Pinewood Studios**

Pinewood Studios  
Pinewood Road  
Iver Heath  
Buckinghamshire  
SL0 0NH

**Missenden Abbey**  
London Road  
Great Missenden  
Buckinghamshire  
HP16 0BD

**Telephone: 01494 522 141**

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