

# Aratohu Whakawhiwhia Graduation Guide

Ōtautahi Christchurch  
Āperira April 2026



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# Nau mai, tauti mai | Welcome

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Tēnā koutou e ngā kaiwhiwhi tohu paetahi, tohu paerua, tohu kairangi hoki o Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha. Nau mai, tauti mai ki te hapori mātauranga o te whare wānanga nei.

Greetings to you, the recipients of certificates, diplomas and degrees from Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha | University of Canterbury. Welcome to the community of scholars from this university.

Congratulations on your achievements, and the hard work and dedication that has earned you the right to take your place on the graduation stage.

By graduating, you're joining over 150,000 University of Canterbury alumni providing invaluable contributions to the world around us.

Take your place amongst them, and the great innovators and history-makers who came before, and add to our great story, which began over 150 years ago.

In this handbook you'll find all the information you will need to graduate from the University of Canterbury.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact [events@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:events@canterbury.ac.nz).

# Academic dress

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All those graduating at Aotearoa New Zealand universities are required to wear full academic dress.

The colour of the hood lining denotes the different faculties or degrees, except for the peony red PhD hood.

In recent years, University of Canterbury graduands have embellished their graduation regalia with garments of honour from their own tradition such as a kākahu/korowai or ta'ovala and we encourage this colourful addition to the celebrations. Some graduands and graduates carry flower posies or wear corsages/buttonholes.

## What to wear to graduation

Graduation is a special milestone and a formal university event, so we ask all graduands to dress in a way that reflects the significance of the occasion. This includes wearing the correct academic regalia, which is required in order to cross the stage.

Only your trencher (mortarboard hat) can be carried across the stage (for example: no framed photos).

You're welcome to wear a cultural or heirloom brooch on your regalia—these are the only accessories allowed.

Expect plenty of walking and standing, sometimes on stairs. We recommend wearing shoes that are comfortable and practical for the day.

You'll be photographed and videoed throughout the day, so wear something that helps you feel confident and proud.

*Wearing the correct academic regalia* is required to take part in the celebration.

## Collecting your academic dress

Collect your academic dress from Dovedale Campus, Wairarapa Building, Block ED15.

A reminder email will be sent three days prior to the graduation which includes a map and information about your collection day and return time. You can collect on the day of your celebration.

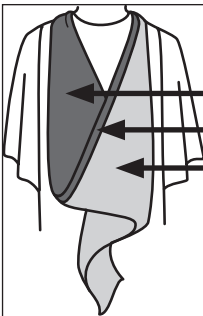
If you are unable to collect your regalia at the specified time, you may ask someone to collect it for you. **Please ensure your height and head measurements are on the order.** Measure your head circumference above your ears. The measurement should be between 50 – 67cm. If you have long hair, please measure with your hair out.

Your academic regalia must be returned to the same location it was collected from before the required time. Anyone can return your regalia; however, its safe return is the responsibility of the hirer.

A security hold of \$50 will be placed on your card at the time of collection. Please make sure that you have enough funds available to cover this amount. The hold will be automatically released after seven days if the regalia is returned on time, dry, undamaged, and without heavy soiling.

## How to wear your academic dress

Watch our *regalia video* to get your academic dress right. Academic dress consists of a gown, a hood and a trencher (black cap with tassel).



coloured lining of hood  
border colour  
grey outside of hood

## Gown

The Bachelor gown is worn with the hands going through the slits at the top of the sleeve not down through the bottom of the sleeve. Master gowns have a closed sleeve but it's obvious where your arm goes. A Master gown is also used as a PhD gown.

## Hood

The hood is held in position by a neckband which joins the two sides together at the sternum. This band is held by a ribbon provided as per the video demonstration. **Pins are not to be used to secure the hood as these damage the satin fabric.** The right shoulder is grey, and the left shoulder shows the faculty colour lining, however if you are graduating with a PhD, this is reversed.

The easiest way to put the hood on is to hold out the hood with the GWC Regalia Hire label facing out and flip it over your head. The back of the hood drapes diagonally across your back showing the band which signifies the level of your qualification ie: Bachelor, Bachelor Hons, Master. If you are receiving two degrees at the same celebration, you can wear the hood for either degree, but not together. You must wear your highest qualification.

## Hat

The trencher is worn shorter peak to the front, the top is flat on your head, with tassel over your left eye. For PhD and doctoral degrees the headgear is a black velvet beret. If the trencher is thrown and the corner is damaged, this can't be repaired and a full replacement of the trencher is charged.

If you are having a diploma awarded and have no other degree, wear only the gown (no trencher or hood). If you already have a degree, you will receive a University of Canterbury stole, the gown of your highest qualification and a trencher.



## Colour of hoods

The hoods are of a standard size and shape with a slate grey or navy exterior. Honours and Master's degrees (for most faculties) are distinguished by having a border on the exterior (Honours is 25mm wide and Masters is 75mm) of the same colour as the interior of the hood. You will be shown images of your chosen regalia during the online ordering process.

### Hood colours

- Arts – Baby Pink
- Commerce – Yellow
- Education – Brown
- Engineering – Violet
- Forestry – Chestnut
- Health Sciences – Emerald Green
- Law & Criminal Justice – Ice Blue
- Music & Fine Arts – White
- Science – Ultramarine
- Social Work – Post Office Red
- Speech & Language Pathology/Audiology – Magenta
- Sport Coaching – Post Office Red
- Teaching & Learning – Old Gold
- PhDs – Peony Red

## Staff colours

The rich variety of academic dress (and colours) worn by the academic staff reflects the many different universities which they attended.

University officers wear peony red gowns. The Tumu Kaunihera | Chancellor's gown is damask embroidered with gold and gold lace, and the trencher is peony red with gold lace and a gold tassel. The Tumu Whakarae | Vice-Chancellor's gown is damask embroidered with gold and the trencher is peony red with a gold tassel. The Pouroki | Registrar's gown is silk embroidered with gold and the trencher is peony red with a red tassel.

# The graduation celebration

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There will be five celebrations at Wolfbrook Arena, and a parade through the city centre on the morning of Wednesday 15 April, in Ōtautahi Christchurch in April 2026

- Tuesday 14 April
- Wednesday 15 April
- Thursday 16 April

## Guest tickets and procession into Wolfbrook Arena

Each University of Canterbury graduand is allocated five tickets for guests to attend their graduation celebration.

Guests must be seated by 9.20am for the morning celebration and 1.20pm for the afternoon celebration.

### Students and guests with a disability

If you, or any of your guests have a disability for which specific arrangements are required, such as access or seating, please inform the events team by emailing [events@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:events@canterbury.ac.nz).

### Transport

For those attending the city street parade on Wednesday 15 April, 9am – 1pm, there will be buses available to and from Wolfbrook Arena, see *here*. For more information about Christchurch's public transport network visit <https://www.metroinfo.co.nz/>

### Processions

Processions begin 15 minutes prior to the start of a graduation celebration. Marshals will provide instruction as to the procession order.

The procession is filmed and projected onto the screens inside the Arena.

### Morning procession

Graduates/graduands must assemble at the signposted area in the main carpark on Twigger Street **no later than 9am**.

### Afternoon procession

Graduates/graduands must assemble at the signposted area in the main carpark on Twigger Street **no later than 1pm**.

### What to bring to the Marshalling Area

When you arrive at the Marshalling Area you should be dressed in your regalia with your graduation seat number that you will receive via email.

Please do not carry anything that does not fit in your pockets as you might not return to the same seat after you cross the stage. For this reason, it is best not to bring cell phones, cameras, flowers or handbags with you to the Marshalling Area.

### Cancellation procedures

If the procession into the venue is cancelled due to weather, please assemble at the rear of the main stage of Wolfbrook Arena, entering through Gate 1.

Participation in the procession is not optional. If there is a reason that you are unable to take part or require support for the procession, please contact [graduation@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:graduation@canterbury.ac.nz) by Thursday 2 April.

In the case of bad weather, you will receive an email and text message from the University with instructions, this will also be posted on the *graduation webpage*.



## Celebration procedure

- *Click here* for a video overview of graduation.
- You will move into the Arena and proceed to your seats. You will sit down, still wearing your trencher.
- Graduates will rise when Fanfare is sounded for the entrance of the academic procession.
- Graduates will remain standing for the pao – a representative group of graduates will be welcomed into the Arena.
- Graduates and the audience will then be seated for the mihi.
- Remove your trencher (it is replaced as you leave the stage).
- A waiata will be sung.
- Graduates and audience will stand for the Aotearoa New Zealand National Anthem.
- Once everyone is seated the Tumu Kaunihera | Chancellor will convene the celebration.

All graduates are called one at a time. If you are carrying a posy, leave it on your seat before proceeding to the stage.

### When your name is called:

- Walk across the stage to the Tumu Kaunihera | Chancellor and bow your head to be doffed.
- Don your trencher.
- Continue down the steps to collect your certificate at the end of the aisle.
- Return to your seat.

Please remain seated during the musical interlude.

- After the presentations are completed, there will be a graduation address.
- The celebration will be closed by the Tumu Whakarae | Vice-Chancellor.
- As Gaudeamus is played, please stand.
- Once the academic party is clear of the stage, the Marshals will indicate for you to follow them into the foyer.

**If you find you are unable to attend the celebration in person**, you must notify [graduation@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:graduation@canterbury.ac.nz) to discuss what options are available.

### Video and photography

UC graduation processions and celebrations are filmed and photographed. Footage and photos will be publicly accessible on UC's Facebook, Instagram, Tik Tok, LinkedIn, YouTube, Bilibili, WeChat and Little Red Book accounts. Photos may be used in university publications, promotional material (digital and print) and social media content. While a wide range of images are captured, we cannot guarantee all photos will be shared. If you have any questions or concerns regarding graduation photography, please email [communications@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:communications@canterbury.ac.nz).

# Linton Photography

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Linton Photography are the Official University of Canterbury Graduation Photographers.

They have been photographing graduations since 1994 and have the skills and ability to create graduation photos that you and your family can be proud of.

They will be photographing every graduand as they are presented on stage.

A studio portrait service is available either at their studio or at the venue on graduation day, so you can have formal portraits taken with family or friends.

Portrait session times may be booked in advance. It is possible to be photographed without a booking on a first in, first served basis at any time on graduation day.

To learn more about the portrait services available or to view your on stage photos after the ceremony phone 03 339 6699 or visit [www.lintonphoto.com/graduation/](http://www.lintonphoto.com/graduation/)



# Order of proceedings

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## **Qualifications in the Faculty of Science – Wolfbrook Arena, Tuesday 14 April at 10am**

- Doctor of Philosophy graduates presented by Dean of Postgraduate Research, Professor Brigid McNeill
- Graduates in Science presented by Executive Dean – Science, Professor Stuart Parsons

## **Qualifications in UC Business School – Wolfbrook Arena, Tuesday 14 April at 2pm**

- Doctor of Philosophy graduates presented by Dean of Postgraduate Research, Professor Brigid McNeill
- Graduates in Business presented by Executive Dean – Business, Professor Paul Ballantine and Associate Dean Academic Professor Ann-Marie Kennedy

## **Qualifications in the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Law Wolfbrook Arena, Wednesday 15 April at 2pm**

- Doctor of Philosophy graduates presented by Dean of Postgraduate Research, Professor Brigid McNeill
- Graduates in Arts presented by Executive Dean – Arts, Professor Kevin Watson
- Graduates in Law presented by Executive Dean – Law, Professor Petra Butler

## **Qualifications in the Faculty of Education and in the Faculty of Health Wolfbrook Arena, Thursday 16 April at 10am**

- Doctor of Philosophy graduates presented by Dean of Postgraduate Research, Professor Brigid McNeill
- Graduates in Education presented by Executive Dean – Education, Professor Joce Nuttall
- Graduates in Health presented by Executive Dean – Health, Associate Professor Cathy Andrew

## **Qualifications in the Faculty of Engineering, including Forestry and Product Design – Wolfbrook Arena, Thursday 16 April at 2pm**

- Doctor of Philosophy graduates presented by Dean of Postgraduate Research, Professor Brigid McNeill
- Graduates in Engineering, Forestry and Product Design presented by Executive Dean – Engineering, Professor Saurabh Sinha and Associate Dean – Academic, Professor Rua Murray

## **Refreshments**

Refreshments will be available to purchase inside Wolfbrook Arena before and after the celebrations.

# Graduate functions

After graduation, your name will be added to the University of Canterbury Graduate Search, which is publicly accessible [here](#).

The University also provides secondary schools with names of their former students who have graduated from the University of Canterbury.



## The University of Canterbury Club

warmly invites all graduates and their guests to kick off their graduation celebrations at Ilam Homestead. A fully licensed bar service will also be available.

Graduates are also welcome to use the Homestead and gardens for graduation photos.

**April 14, 15, 16 (from 4pm)**  
Ilam Homestead, 87 Ilam Road.

**UCC**  
EST 1929



ILAM HOMESTEAD  
FUNCTION VENUE





University of Canterbury April 2025

# Congratulations and welcome to the UC Alumni Community!

As a graduate of the University of Canterbury, you are joining over 150,000 UC alumni around the world.

Stay in touch to receive alumni benefits and services including the latest news, publications and invitations to events. Update your details on our UC Alumni website, or by emailing [alumni@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:alumni@canterbury.ac.nz)

[www.canterbury.ac.nz/alumni](http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/alumni)



## Alumni



# Degree frames

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Preserve your hard-earned degree in a handcrafted frame made to last a lifetime.

**Conservation  
Pine \$220**

**Pine \$160**



**Because a degree this hard-earned  
deserves a permanent place on the wall.**

**Now & Forever Images**  
yonframes@gmail.com

27 Guys Road, Yaldhurst  
Telephone 021 898 757

# Graduation flowers

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Purchase a bouquet of flowers for your special day.

Ilam Florist will be on-site at Graduation where you can choose from a beautiful variety of flowers. Specific requests, including dried flowers, can be ordered online at [IlamFlorist.co.nz](http://IlamFlorist.co.nz)



*Ilam Florist*  
WWW.ILAMFLORIST.CO.NZ

03 358 5396  
[jane@ilamflorist.co.nz](mailto:jane@ilamflorist.co.nz)

# University of Canterbury Graduation Ring



It's an exciting time with Graduation fast approaching and we would like to invite you to share in an exciting tradition which reflects your achievements and time spent attaining your degree. The UC Graduation Ring is a symbol of this prestigious event.



Arts



BCJ



BCom



Business



Education



Engineering



Science



Law



Health + more

## How to find your finger size and place your order?

There is a ring sizer located at the UC Bookshop, simply drop in and find your finger size (or visit any local jeweler) then place your order at [www.honourrings.co.nz/uc](http://www.honourrings.co.nz/uc)



### ★ Graduation Special!

Place your order online before Graduation and use the promo code **GRADPROMO** at the checkout to receive a 5% discount.

Email [info@honourrings.co.nz](mailto:info@honourrings.co.nz) if you have any questions. Honour Rings will also have a stand at Graduation Day.

You can find out more about the rings, view photos, and place orders here

# Your academic documents

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## What are academic documents?

Academic documents provide evidence of your study at the University of Canterbury and include Academic Transcripts; Testamurs (Qualification or Certificates) and Official Letters.

## Why do I need academic documents?

You may need to supply official evidence of study for:

- Entrance to other tertiary institutes in Aotearoa New Zealand or overseas
- Employment
- Government benefits or emigration

## Can I get digital copies?

Yes, any eligible University of Canterbury student or graduate can receive academic documents through My eEquals. It's a secure online platform used by 47 participating universities where you can view and share your official documents with third parties.

You can also order a Letter of Eligibility to Graduate or Letter of Conferment of Qualification to be accessed on My eEquals. Other official letters may be provided on a case-by-case basis. Digital letters can be ordered [here](#).



## How do I get a paper copy?

You will receive a paper copy of your Testamur at your graduation celebration. For paper copies of your transcript and letters you can submit a request online [here](#). If you are subsequently unable to attend your graduation celebration, your testamur will be mailed to you in due course.

## How much do academic documents cost?

Digital documents provided automatically upon graduation are free of charge. You'll receive an email from My eEquals with instructions and a link.

Other documents and order methods have costs associated. [See here](#).

## Helpful links

For My eEquals [click here](#)

For academic document information [click here](#).



# Explore Your Career Options



## Te Pokapū Rapuara | Centre for Employability & Career Development

**Congratulations on completing your qualification. Graduation is not just an achievement — it is a transition, a shift in identity, and a step into new ways of contributing, learning, and growing.**

As you move from university into mahi, further study, entrepreneurship, or exploration, the Centre for Employability & Career Development is here to walk alongside you.

Whether you have a clear direction or are still figuring it out, we can help you move forward with confidence, knowing you are still part of our community.

- **Online career tools available 24/7**  
Use smart online tools for CV writing and feedback, interview prep, aptitude test practice, and building your professional pitch.
- **NZUni talent jobs board**  
Employers post opportunities exclusively for university students and graduates in Aotearoa New Zealand. Find jobs, internships, and graduate roles in all industries. Log in with your UC email to explore roles across Aotearoa New Zealand and beyond.



- **On-campus events**  
Employability is not just about applications — it is about relationships. Keep coming to the Careers Fairs and Employer Recruitment Events to connect with potential employers and practice your professional pitch.
- **Personalised consultations**  
Whether your direction feels clear or uncertain, we offer space to reflect and plan. Book an appointment to clarify your direction, check your job search strategies, consider how your identity and experiences shape your career decisions, and learn to navigate change or uncertainty.

UC graduates can access support for up to two years after graduation. You don't have to navigate this move alone. We look forward to supporting you as you embark on this new chapter in your career!

### Contact Us

Te Pokapū Rapuara | Centre for Employability & Career Development  
Level 1, Jane Soons Arts Road  
University of Canterbury  
[www.canterbury.ac.nz/life/jobs-and-careers](http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/life/jobs-and-careers)  
T: +64 3 369 0303  
E: [employability@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:employability@canterbury.ac.nz)

# Graduate deals

UC has partnered with businesses in Ōtautahi and Waitaha to provide special offers for you to enjoy as you celebrate with friends and whānau. From burgers and gelato to spa soaks and city adventures, celebrate graduating from UC with a few well-earned treats. Find your *deals here*.



BONNIE

Christchurch  
attractions

Drifter



silvermoon



THOLSIE & CO.  
*untamed elegance*



Te Ratonga Hākinakina  
Rec & Sport