

# NOTES ON ACADEMIC DRESS

All graduates wear the academic dress characteristic of the university from which they graduated; most of the examples you will see in the procession are from universities in Australia, the United Kingdom, New Zealand and the United States of America.

The gowns and hoods derive from the streetwear of medieval times when the first universities were established, though with considerable modification. The gown was originally simply an overcoat closed in the front, and some American gowns retain this feature. By about 1500 AD, popular fashion had changed and the gown was worn open at the front to display the rich lining. From this practice derives the two red facings of almost all PhD gowns. The hood was worn to keep off the rain and snow and it too was lined to keep the head warm. When hoods ceased to be common streetwear, the universities began to use them to distinguish the different degrees.

Trencher caps (mortar-boards) are much more modern. Originally a square shallow floppy cap was worn, with a close fitting skullcap under it. During the seventeenth century, it became common to sew the skullcap and the square cap together as a single headpiece, and later a board (the trencher) was introduced into the square cap to stop the corners from falling over the face. The tassel was added even later as a fashion item and officially approved in Oxford only in 1770. You will also see many PhD graduates wearing Tudor bonnets; a stiff oval brim with a soft velvet top. This bonnet was high fashion in the time of King Henry VIII, and can be seen in many portraits of the period.

British academic dress derives from a mixture of independence and imitation. As new universities were established they tended to imitate Oxford and Cambridge. They asserted their individuality in various ways – for example, in the colour and shape of the hoods. Interestingly, the gowns worn by Chancellors and Vice-Chancellors are specially prescribed and tend to retain the oldest traditions, varying less between universities.

American gowns and hoods are rather different because the United States borrowed from French tradition. There is a national code by which you can identify the level of the degree, the university from which it comes and the area of study for which the degree has been awarded, based on the colours of the hood, the lining and several other features.

The uniforms of continental European universities differ greatly. Some countries have no academic dress at all, while others have chains of office, rings, scarves (ermine usually), or even a stiff hat with a distinguishing badge in front.

At the University of Tasmania, the Chancellor, the Deputy Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor wear black gowns trimmed with gold braid.

Ordinance 33 'Of Academic Dress' is shown on the following pages.

Of Academic Dress  
Authorised by Council  
Ordinance No. 33

The following Ordinance has been modified in accordance with Ordinances No. 50 , No. 55 , No 67 and No 82 .

The Council of the University of Tasmania in pursuance of and exercise of the powers conferred on it by the University of Tasmania Act 1992 hereby makes the following Ordinance:

1 The academic dress shall be-

- (a) For undergraduates and holders of associate diplomas:
  - [i] a plain black stuff gown similar to that worn by scholars in the University of Oxford;
  - [ii] a black cloth trencher cap with black tassel.
  
- (b) For holders of diplomas not being graduates:
  - [i] a gown of black cloth, of the same shape as that worn by Bachelors of Arts in the University of Oxford;
  - [ii] a black cloth trencher cap with black tassel;
  - [iii] a stole of silk 10 centimetres wide, tapering to 4.5 centimetres across the shoulders, and of the length of the gown on each side. The colour of the stole shall be as determined for the relevant faculty in Schedule 1.
  
- (c) For bachelors:
  - [i] a gown of black cloth, of the same shape as that worn by Bachelors of Arts in the University of Oxford;
  - [ii] a black cloth trencher cap with black tassel;
  - [iii] a hood of black silk of the same shape and size as that worn by Bachelors of Arts in the University of Oxford, lined to a depth of 5 centimetres with coloured silk in the tippet and cowl. The silk is to be the relevant colour specified in Schedule 1 or Schedule 2.
  
- (d) For holders of diplomas being graduates:  
The academic dress pertaining to the degree held by the diplomate before admission to the course for the diploma.
  
- (e) For masters other than Master of Surgery:
  - [i] a gown of black cloth, of the same shape as that worn by Masters of Arts in the University of Oxford;
  - [ii] a black cloth trencher cap with black tassel;
  - [iii] a hood of black silk of the same shape and size as that worn by Masters of Arts in the University of Oxford, lined entirely with silk. The colour of the silk lining shall be as determined for that degree in Schedule 1.
  
- (ea) For doctors of education:
  - [i] a festal gown of black cloth, fully lined in the sleeves and faced on the full length of the lapels to a width of 10 centimetres with light blue silk;
  - [ii] a black velvet bonnet trimmed with light blue cord and tassel;
  - [iii] a hood of light blue cloth of the same shape and size as that worn by Masters of Arts in the University of Oxford, lined with light blue silk;

[iv] the colour light blue is as specified in Schedule 1 for all awards in the Faculty of Education.

(f) For doctors of philosophy:

[i] a festal gown of black cloth, fully lined in the sleeves and faced on the full length of the lapels to a width of 10 centimetres with scarlet silk;

[ii] a black velvet bonnet trimmed with scarlet cord and tassel;

[iii] a hood of scarlet cloth of the same shape and size as that worn by Masters of Arts in the University of Oxford, lined with scarlet silk.

(g) For doctors (other than doctors of philosophy and doctors of education); and for masters of surgery:

[i] a festal gown of scarlet cloth, faced on the full length of the lapels to a width of 10 centimetres with coloured silk, with open pointed sleeves fully lined with coloured silk and turned back above the elbow;

[ii] a black velvet bonnet trimmed with gold cord and tassel;

[iii] a black silk hood of the same size and shape as that of a Doctor in the University of Oxford, lined entirely with coloured silk;

[iv] the colour of the silk is as specified in Schedule 1 for the faculty in which the degree was obtained.

(h) For members of Council:

[i] a master's gown, ornamented with gold braid 2.5 centimetres long running from front to back on each shoulder;

[ii] a black cloth trencher cap with black tassel.

(i) For the Chancellor, Deputy Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor:

[i] a black gown trimmed with gold braid;

[ii] either a black velvet bonnet trimmed with gold cord and tassel, or a black velvet trencher cap with gold tassel.

2 The use of academic dress shall not be obligatory on any person for any purpose or on any occasion.

3 This Ordinance shall take effect on 18 March 1994.

4 The colours described in Schedules 1 and 2 are defined by comparison with the Australian Colour Standard and any other widely accepted colour standard that the Academic Registrar decides is appropriate. The Academic Registrar will hold swatches of material in the defined colours and will maintain a list showing the definition of each colour by reference to those colour standards.

## SCHEDULE 1

### FACULTY

ARTS [Note: awards not shown below use Dark Blue]

Awards in:

Music	Silver grey
Performing Arts	Silver grey
Fine/Visual Arts and Craft	Satinwood
Administration	Dark Blue
Humanities	Dark blue
Social Sciences	Dark blue
Social Work	Dark blue

### COMMERCE

All awards	Orange
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### LAW

All awards	Crimson
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### EDUCATION

All awards	Light blue
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### HEALTH SCIENCE

Awards in:

Biomedical Science	Jacaranda
Medical Science	Purple
Medicine and Surgery	Lilac
Nursing	Blue green
Pharmacy	Saffron

SCIENCE, ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY [Note: awards not shown below use White]

Awards in:

Agricultural Science	Brown
Antarctic Studies	White
Applied Science	White
Aquaculture	White
Computing	White
Economic Geology	White
Psychology	White
Science	White
Architecture and Town Planning	Dark pink
Environmental Design	Dark pink
Environmental Studies (MEnvSt only)	Light pink
Geomatics and Surveying	Green muscat
Engineering and Technology	Green

