
Academic Dress Policy

1. Purpose

This Policy sets out the details of academic dress requirements for Victoria University of Wellington.

2. Application of Policy

This Policy applies to staff, graduands and graduates of the University.

Policy Content

3. General

- (a) Graduands shall appear at all public graduation ceremonies of the University in the academic dress proper to their qualification, except that with the approval of the Manager, Graduation Services, graduands admitted *ad eundem* may wear the academic dress of their prior qualification.
- (b) Persons who are to receive a qualification who do not wear official academic dress will not be permitted to process.
- (c) Graduands may wish to wear garments to honour their cultural tradition, such as korowai or ta'ovala, over their gown and under their hood or stole. Such garments shall be worn in addition to the required academic dress. Modification of academic dress is not permitted.

4. Doctoral Degrees

4.1. Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

Academic dress for the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) comprises:

- Gown: as for the Cambridge Master of Arts
Stole: faced with red cloth, with curved yoke
Cap: John Knox cap

4.2. Professional Doctoral degrees

Academic dress for professional Doctoral degrees comprises:

- Gown: as for the Cambridge Master of Arts
Stole: faced with satin in an approved colour, with curved yoke
Cap: John Knox cap

4.3. Higher Doctorates and Honorary Doctorates

Academic Dress for Higher and Honorary Doctoral degrees comprises:

- Gown: as for the Cambridge Master of Arts but made of scarlet silk or cloth
Hood: made wholly of satin in an approved colour
Trencher: black with tassel.

5. Master's Degrees

5.1. *Master's degrees following an undergraduate degree in the same discipline*

Academic dress for Master's degrees for which the prerequisite is a Bachelor's degree within the same discipline, and for the Master's degrees of Business Administration, Health Care, Nursing Science and Public Policy comprises:

- Gown: as for the Cambridge Master of Arts
Hood: of the same size and shape as for the Cambridge Master of Arts, and lined in an approved colour
Trencher: black with tassel

5.2. *Other Master's degrees*

Academic dress for all other Master's degrees comprises:

- Gown: as for the Cambridge Master of Arts
Stole: faced in an approved colour, with a 20mm coloured stripe placed on the coloured material at a distance of 20mm from the border
Trencher: black with tassel

6. Bachelor's Degrees

(a) Academic dress for Bachelor's degrees of Architectural Studies, Building Science and Design Innovation comprises:

- Gown: as for the Cambridge Bachelor of Arts
Hood: as for other Bachelor's degree but with a 15mm coloured stripe placed on the hood lining material at a distance of 30mm from the fur border
Trencher: black with tassel

(b) Otherwise academic dress for Bachelor's degrees, comprises:

- Gown: as for the Cambridge Bachelor of Arts
Hood: lined in an approved colour, and bordered with white fur
Trencher: black with tassel

7. Bachelor's degrees with Honours

Academic dress for Bachelor's degrees with Honours comprises:

- Gown: as for the Cambridge Bachelor of Arts
Hood: lined in an approved colour, and edged with white satin 75mm wide, 15mm being on the coloured lining and the remainder on the outside of the hood
Trencher: black with tassel

8. Diplomas and Certificates

- (a) A diploma or certificate graduand who holds a degree shall wear the academic dress of that degree (whether obtained at this University or elsewhere).
- (b) Otherwise, academic dress for a diploma or certificate comprises:
- Gown: as for the Cambridge Bachelor of Arts.
- Stole: the Victoria University of Wellington stole, which is Tartan Green (BCC26) with an Indian Yellow (BCC6) stripe placed at a distance of 20mm from the border.
- Cap/trencher: None

9. Colours

- (a) Hood, stole and stripe colours are defined using the British Colour Council Dictionary of Colour Standards (BCC).
- (b) Hood colours for each qualification are determined by the Vice-Provost (Academic). For a Master's degree for which the prerequisite is a Bachelor's degree within the same discipline, the hood colour is normally the same as for the associated Bachelor's degree.
- (c) Except for Doctor of Philosophy, stole and stripe colours are determined by the Vice-Provost (Academic). Normally, the same combination of stole and stripe colour is used for all Master's degrees in section 5.2 that are managed by a particular faculty.
- (d) Approved colours for current University qualifications are listed on the website ([see https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/students/graduation-and-beyond/graduation/academic-dress/qualification-colours](https://www.wgtn.ac.nz/students/graduation-and-beyond/graduation/academic-dress/qualification-colours)).
- (e) Details of colours for discontinued University qualifications are held by the Graduation Office. At the discretion of the Manager, Graduation Services, graduates of discontinued qualifications may be provided with current academic dress equivalent to the degree status of the discontinued qualification.

Note: The Wellington Branch of Graduate Women New Zealand is the official academic dress supplier to the University. Contact the Graduation Office or the Academic Dress Hire office for details.

10. Definitions

In this Policy, unless the context otherwise requires, the following definitions shall apply:

Graduand	The status of an undergraduate or graduate student who has finished their studies at university, but not yet formally graduated.
Graduate	Someone who has had a qualification granted either at a graduation ceremony, or in absentia at the University Council
Hood	A separate hood-like garment worn over an academic gown to indicate the wearer's degree
Stole	A long strip of fabric worn over the shoulders and on top of an academic gown
Trencher	A stiff square academic cap (also known as a mortarboard)

Related Documents and Information

11. Related Documents

[Education and Training Act 2020](#)

[General Academic Statute](#)

[Graduation Procedures](#)

[Qualification colours](#)

12. Document Management and Control

Approver	Academic Board
Approval Date	Previous Academic Dress Statute replaced by this Policy 31 August 2020
Effective Date	31 August 2020
Last Modified	
Review Date	31 August 2023
Sponsor	Provost
Contact Person	Manager, Graduation Services Extension 5389