

University of Kent Graduation Ceremonies



Your graduation ceremony:

Thursday 23 July 2026 at 14.30

We hope you have a brilliant time at your graduation ceremony on Thursday. This quick guide will take you through the day from start to finish.

Before your ceremony

Your first stop is [The Corn Exchange](#)

Your gowns and tickets are collected at The Corn Exchange, which is in Rochester city centre and is located a 2-minute walk from Rochester Cathedral. Official photography also takes place here.

- 1. This is for Graduand's only: go to the Corn Exchange, *first floor* to collect your gown (14.30 ceremony gowns will be available to collect/purchased from 12.00)**

Please arrive at least 2 hours before your ceremony start time to collect your gown. The gown collection point will be for graduand's only, so please ask your guests to wait upstairs.

- 2. Corn Exchange *second floor* to exchange your E-Receipts for your guest tickets. (14.30 ceremony tickets will be available to collect from 12.00)**

The next step is ticket collection.

Please bring your E-Receipt, either printed or on your device (*this is an email which will be sent to you by Tempest Ticketing on Wednesday 22 and contains a barcode with a link to the tickets you have purchased*).

If you did not receive your E-Receipt or need to pay for your tickets on the day, then we will find your ticket booking using your student ID number.

Please note your guests will not be able to enter the Cathedral without their physical tickets, so make sure you give this to them before they start to queue.

Additional tickets

If additional tickets are available for your ceremony, you will be contacted via email with next steps on how to purchase these.

If available, you will be able to purchase these online. There may be occasions where additional tickets can be purchased on the day and if so, we take **card payment only**.

Additional tickets cannot be guaranteed on the day so please plan accordingly.

If you have any guests who do not have a ticket, then we recommend that they watch along with the ceremony live stream, which can be [accessed on our website here](#).

- 3. Corn Exchange second floor for official graduation photographs and merchandise (Queen's Room).**

Official photographs are taken by Tempest Photography. We recommend allowing time before your ceremony if you would like to take photos. There is also time afterwards but there may be a longer queue.

Our Careers and Employability Team and our Postgraduate Studies team will be available to meet you. Campus Clothing is located on the ground floor, where you can pick up personalised graduation gifts and the 'Class of 2026' clothing.

4. Guests only: Join the queue at the Cathedral.

Guest seating will begin at 13:30, at the West Door of the Cathedral. Guests will often begin queuing from 13:00.

Seating in the Cathedral is not pre-allocated to ticket holders, so seats are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.

5. Graduand's only: Check in at Corn Exchange second floor (Queen's Room).

Graduand Check-in opens at 12:45. Graduand's must check in at The Corn Exchange and arrive no later than 13:30. You will be given a number when you check in, which is the order your name is called out in the ceremony.

You will need to be back in the Queen's room, Corn Exchange at least 45 minutes before your ceremony start time. This will allow enough time for the Graduate Seating Team to organise all students in number order and process into the Cathedral.

6. Graduand's only: Process into the Cathedral for your ceremony!

Graduates will be lined up by our teams, in your numerical order, ready to process into the Cathedral at 13:45. At this point, your guests will already be seated. Our graduand seating team will explain this process to you.

7. Return your gown after your ceremony.

Please make sure you return your gown on the day of your ceremony. **Your gown must be returned no later than 16:30.**

Gown Return Location: This is at the Corn Exchange, but you do not need to enter the main entrance. Instead, go to the side entrance which is located on the High Street and the gowning teams will be able to take your gown back.

Please note

You can drop guests off outside The Corn Exchange.

There are lots of places to park, but Rochester will be busy on graduation day.

We recommend checking out the parking in advance and leave plenty of time for travel and parking. We cannot provide parking within the grounds.

The nearest train station is Rochester Station which is a three-minute walk from the Corn Exchange. [Please see the Medway Council parking list.](#)

We also run a park-and-ride service from the Medway campus to Rochester, [please get in touch](#) to request details.

Frequently asked questions

Please do [read through our FAQs](#) and our [information for guests](#).

Is there a Live stream?

We will be live-streaming our ceremonies on YouTube, [which will be available online](#) before your ceremony date.

When do I receive my guest tickets?

Your E-Receipt will be sent to the email address that you registered with on Tempest Ticketing. You need to exchange this E-Receipt on the day for your guest tickets.

Please do not worry if you have not received your e-receipt, as we can check your orders on the day using your student number.

How long before the ceremony start time should I arrive?

We recommend arriving at least two hours before your ceremony start time. We cannot guarantee that graduates who arrive late will be permitted to enter the Cathedral once the ceremony has started.

Are there any toilets available within the Cathedral?

Yes, there are accessible toilets inside the Cathedral. Please ask a member of staff for directions. Please be aware that guests will not be able to leave the ceremony 15 minutes before the end as the procession will begin to take place.

How long does the ceremony normally last?

Once you have processed into the Cathedral and sat down, you will watch the ceremony, cheering on your classmates until it is your turn to graduate.

Graduation ceremonies are a formal opportunity to celebrate you. They will begin with the processions into the Cathedral, starting with students and ending with senior academics and civic attendees.

You will hear from our Presiding Officer, and either the new honorary graduate if there is one being awarded at the ceremony or representatives from our Kent Students' Union. Ceremonies are about 90 minutes long.

How is guest seating allocated in the ceremony?

Guest seating is allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Guests are not able to choose or change seats, and please note that some seats have restricted views. From these seats, you can view televisions showing a live feed of the ceremony. All guests must have a seat, and we cannot allow any guests to stand during the ceremony.

There are a few seating areas within the Cathedral, such as the central nave or the south aisle. There are differences in view between these areas, and some provide a view of the graduand walking down the central aisle whereas others can see them at the front.

Some of the seats are located behind a pillar, and therefore have an obstructed view, please note that where seats have an obstructed view, there are screens displaying live streaming.