University of Kent Graduation Ceremonies



Your graduation ceremony: Tuesday 17 November at 14.30

We hope you have a brilliant time at your graduation ceremony on Tuesday. 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, this is in Rochester city centre which is located a 2-minute walk from Rochester Cathedral. Official photography also takes place here.

1. **This is for Graduands only: Corn Exchange *first floor* to collect your gown (Gowns will be able to be collected from 12.00)**

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

2. **Corn Exchange *second floor* to exchange your E-Receipts for your guest tickets. (Ceremony tickets will be able to be collected 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 has been sent to you by Tempest Ticketing and contains a barcode.*)

   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 number.

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

Additional tickets

If additional tickets are available, please purchase them online via Tempest ticketing before your graduation ceremony.

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, but there is also time afterwards.

Tempest Photography will close at 17.30.

Campus Clothing are 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, but 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.

If your guests have made accessibility arrangements with us, please follow the guidance we have sent to you.

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

Graduand Check in opens at 12:30. Graduands must go to check in at The Corn Exchange and must 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. Graduands only: Process into the Cathedral for your ceremony!

Graduands 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 be on hand to guide you through process.

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 17:30.

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.

Student receptions

There are specific school receptions organised by the Student Experience team taking place on the day of your graduation. Please see further information here. Celebrate your Graduation Day, alongside your peers and academics, to celebrate your special achievement.

Arriving in Rochester

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 station. 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 has been 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 ticket.

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 two hours before your ceremony start time. We cannot guarantee graduands 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, 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. 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 in Congregations ceremonies 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.