Information Guide

University of Kent Graduation Ceremonies



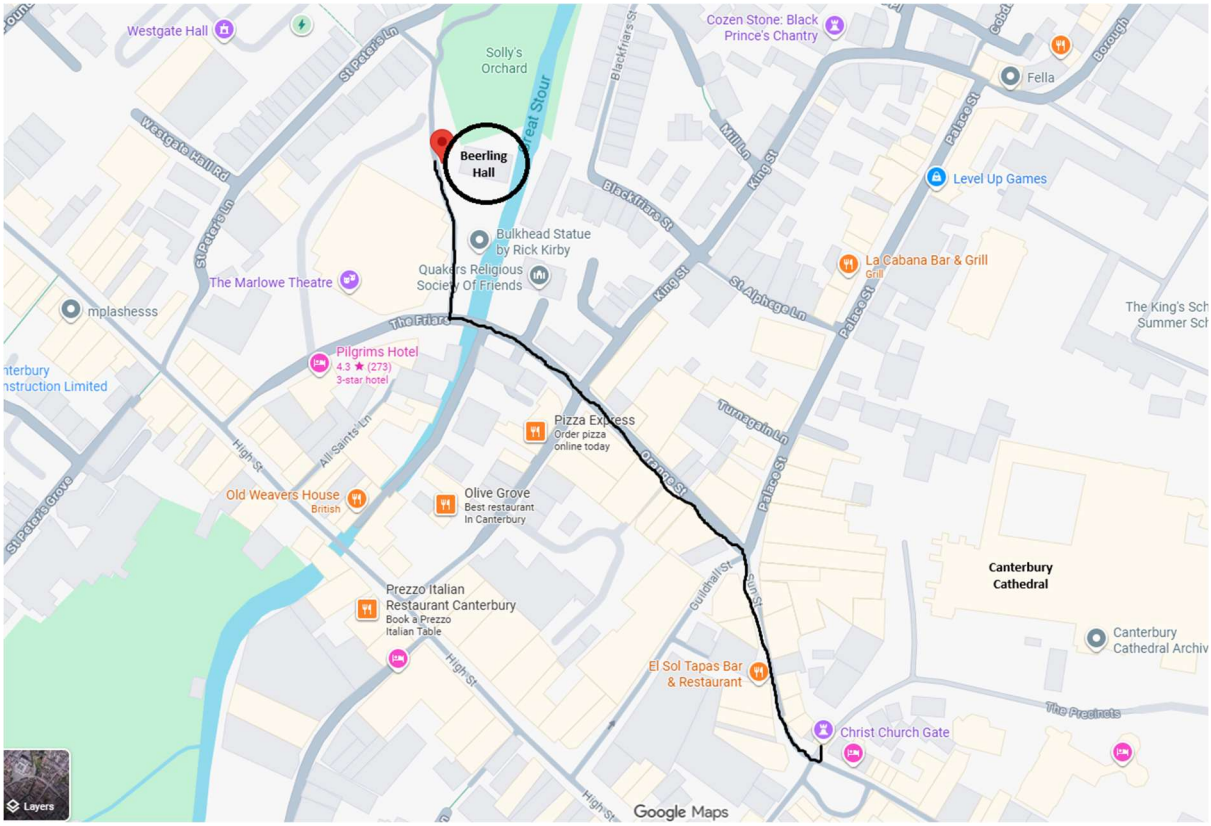
Your 14.30 graduation ceremony

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

Before your ceremony

Your first stop is Beerling Hall.

You will pick up your tickets and your gown at Beerling Hall, which is located behind the Marlowe Theatre.



1) **This is for Graduands only: Arrive at Beerling Hall to exchange your E-receipt for your guest tickets. (Tickets will be available to be collected and purchased from 11.00)**

Please arrive 2 hours prior to your ceremony start time to collect your tickets and gown.

Beerling Hall will be graduands only, and guests will not be permitted entry into this venue.

You will be directed up the stairs to ticket collection, due to limited space we will send students up in groups of 20, here you will exchange your E-Receipts for your guest tickets.

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 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 ticket, so make sure you give this to them before they start to queue.

Graduands do not need a ticket to graduate.

Additional Tickets

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

Running late?

If you are running late, you should still go to Beerling Hall and our teams will assist you as quickly as possible. However, if you are arriving later than 30 minutes prior to your ceremony, then please just go straight to the Cathedral and head to the guest entrance and speak to a member of staff.

2) **Graduands Only: Head downstairs to collect your gown**

Once you have collected your guest tickets you will be directed downstairs to collect your gown. Please ensure you have your confirmation email or student number ready.

*If you did not pre-hire your gown before the deadline, you can hire your gown on the day here too.

After you have collected your tickets and gown, you will be directed to the Canterbury Cathedral Grounds. This will be approximately a 4 minute walk.

3) **Guests and Graduands: Cathedral Lodge Hotel, in the Cathedral grounds, Kentish Barn and Clagett Auditorium. Official graduation photographs and merchandise.**

Official photographs are taken by Tempest Photography. You have the option to take both individual and photos with your guests.

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, as there will be students coming for the next ceremony time who will take priority.

Tempest Photography will close for the day at 18.00.

Our Careers & Employability team, our Alumni team and our Postgraduate Studies team will also be available to meet. Campus Clothing will be 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 South Door of the Cathedral.

Guests will often begin queuing from 13.00.

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

We will be live streaming our ceremonies on YouTube, which are available online through the University of Kent website.

5) Graduands only: **Check in at Chapter House**

Graduand Check in opens at 13.00.

Graduands must go to Chapter House no later than 45 minutes before your ceremony start time. You will have been given a number when you pick up your tickets which is your processional order number - the order that you will be going into the Cathedral. This matches up with the order of your certificates so it is important you remember your number and stay in order.

Please ensure you arrive no later than 45 minutes before your ceremony as this will allow enough time for the Graduand Seating team to organise all graduands into number order and process into the Cathedral.

6) Graduands Only: **Process into the Cathedral for the ceremony!**

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

During the ceremony

If you or your guests require to use the toilet during the ceremony, 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 to allow the processions to exit safely.

Ceremonies generally take around 90 minutes. Some ceremonies have an honorary degree awarded, which will take place midway through the ceremony. We request that guests remain in the Cathedral for the duration of the ceremony.

6) **Graduands and Guests: Leaving the Cathedral**

Please follow guidance from our staff about leaving the ceremony safely.

Once your ceremony finishes, our graduate seating team and the ceremony ushers will process all students out of the cathedral.

You will need to exit the Cathedral and walk down the precincts to the meeting point, which is beside the Canterbury War horse sculpture, this is where you will be able to join up with your guests for post ceremony celebrations.

7) **Return your gown after your ceremony:**

Gown Return Location:

Clagett Hall Auditorium, Cathedral Lodge Hotel.

Please make sure you return your gown on the day of your ceremony. The latest time you can return your gown is 21.30.

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 for your ceremony

The Cathedrals are located close to train stations (Canterbury West / Canterbury East) and Southeastern offer a high-speed rail service which takes less than an hour from London.

Parking

There are lots of places to park when attending a graduation ceremony, however Canterbury will be busy at this time.

We recommend checking out the parking in advance and leave plenty of time for travel and parking. We cannot provide parking within the Cathedral grounds. Please arrive with plenty of time to allow for parking.

Please see the Canterbury Council parking list. You may also wish to use the Park and Ride service, with buses running regularly from just outside the city centre.

Canterbury Cathedral is sited within the pedestrian zone and there is restricted access controlled by security bollards, you may not be able to drop guests off by car at the Cathedral via the Christ Church gate. Access to the Cathedral Grounds through Mint Yard Gate is **prohibited**.

Park and Ride services will also be available from New Dover Road, Sturry Road and Wincheap. Please note the entrance to the Cathedral via Queningate, will not be open during the week of the ceremonies.

Frequently asked questions

Please do read through our FAQs and our information for guests.

What to do if you are running late?

If you are running late, you should still go to Beerling Hall and our teams will assist you as quickly as possible. However, if you are arriving later than 30 minutes prior to your ceremony, then please just go straight to the Cathedral and head to the guest entrance and speak to a member of staff.

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.

Are there any toilets available within the Cathedral?

There are no toilets inside Canterbury Cathedral, there a public and accessible toilets located just outside 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 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.

Christmas Market

There is a traditional Christmas Market dotted all over the city including along the Whitefriars Shopping Centre, and the grounds of Canterbury Cathedral.
This means that there may be additional guests within the Cathedral grounds enjoying the festive market. This means that we will be queuing guests into the ceremony via the South Door.

If you have time before or after your ceremony, please do enjoy this addition but ensure that you keep track of the timings for your ceremony. This is organised by Canterbury City Council.