

Academic Dress



Academic Dress in the University of Hertfordshire



Bruce Christianson

Academic Dress in the University of Hertfordshire
Second edition, revised and extended

Published by Marketing and Communications, University of Hertfordshire, 2006

Written by Bruce Christianson

Designed by Kate Douglas

Printed by Belmont Press

Photography by Paul Hayman, Peter Hoare, Jeff Jones, Mark Sims

Repassage by Alison Wills

Mannequins courtesy of Br Michael Powell CJ and the Burgon Society

Robes courtesy of J Wippell & Co of Exeter, University Robemakers

Engravings courtesy of Dr Alex Kerr

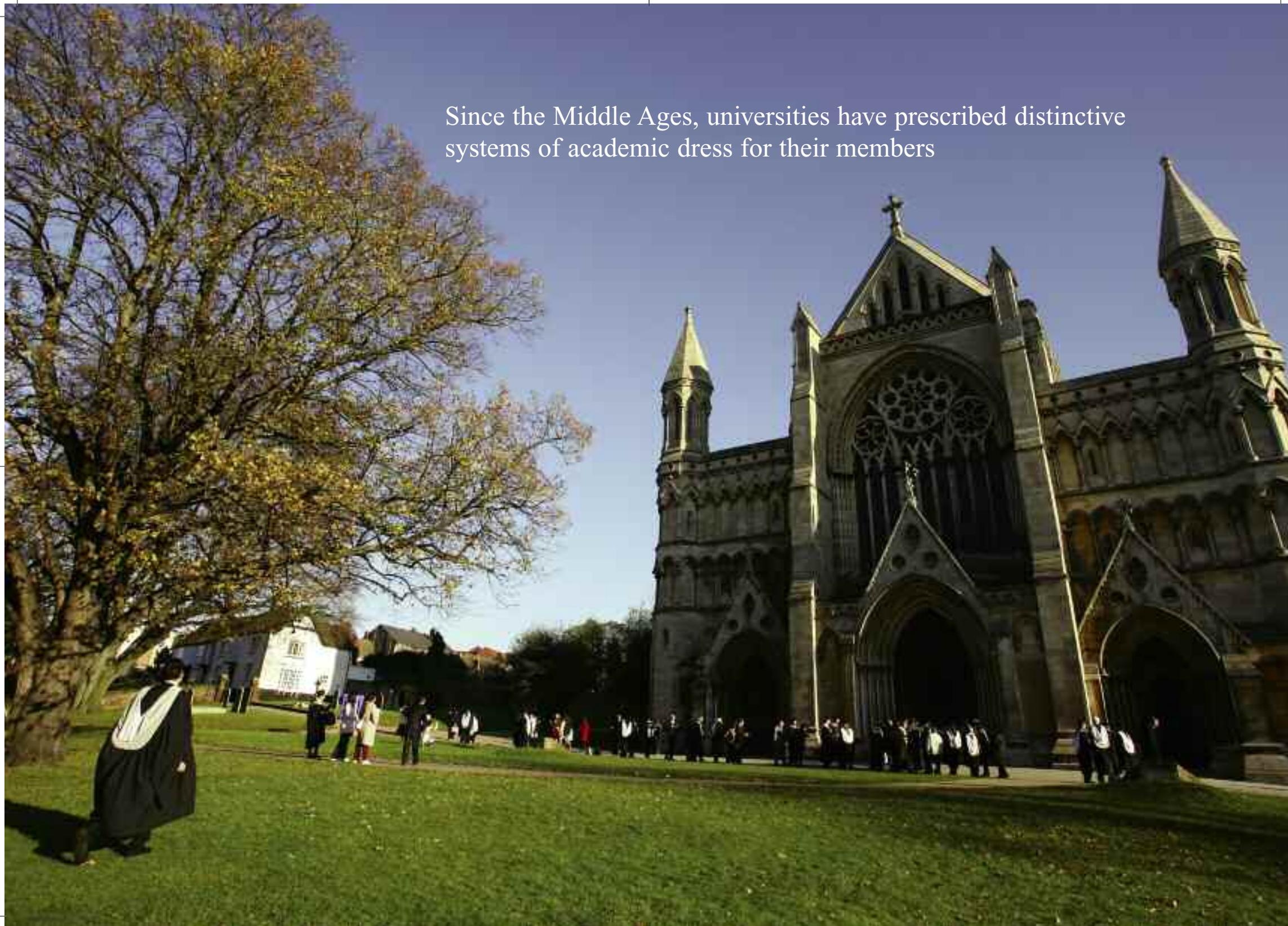
Thanks to the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban
and to the Students and Staff of the University of Hertfordshire

Text Copyright ©1993, 2006 Bruce Christianson

The right of Bruce Christianson to be identified as the author of this work has been asserted by him in
accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988

ISBN 1-905313-39-X

Since the Middle Ages, universities have prescribed distinctive systems of academic dress for their members





There are many different variations of academic dress, this book describes the distinctive types worn today at the University of Hertfordshire



In accordance with tradition, our academic dress consists of a gown, a cap, and a hood. The black gown and square cap familiar to all readers of the Beano had evolved into pretty much their present form in England by the end of the Reformation. The hood (which is now the distinctive mark of a university-level qualification) is medieval in origin, and was originally functional. Modern academic hoods, however, are intended to indicate the wearer's degree and parent institution, rather than to keep their ears warm. Although the cap and gown can (in theory) be worn upon any occasion, the wearing of hoods is usually reserved for solemn or

festive occasions such as awards ceremonies.

There are many different variations of academic dress, depending on the academic qualification held by the wearer. In the next few pages we shall first describe the different degrees and diplomas awarded by the University of Hertfordshire for which academic dress is prescribed, and then look in more detail at the gown, cap, and hood associated with each award. We shall then go on to describe the distinctive costume that the University prescribes for its Senior Officers.



Degrees are divided (in ascending order of seniority) into Foundation degrees, Bachelor's degrees, Master's degrees and Doctor's degrees

In addition to degrees, the University also awards various types of diploma: University diplomas, which rank below a Foundation degree, Higher diplomas, which rank equal with a Foundation degree, and Postgraduate diplomas, which rank between a Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree. Finally, degrees with the title of Master or Doctor are further sub-divided into different ranks.

Some Master's degrees such as the Master of Engineering (MEng) are enhanced first degrees, awarded to an undergraduate following a longer period of study than that required for the corresponding

Bachelor's degree (eg BEng). Above these come the postgraduate Master's degrees, such as MA and MSc, which are awarded to the holders of Bachelor's degrees following a period of postgraduate study.

Above the postgraduate Master's degrees comes the senior Master's degree, Master of Philosophy (MPhil), which is awarded for successful completion of a sustained piece of independent (but supervised) research work by the candidate. By tradition, academic research at advanced level leads to a degree in Philosophy (which literally means "love of wisdom" in Greek), regardless of the actual subject of study.





At the University of Hertfordshire, it is the level of an award that determines the academic dress of the holder

Next come the initial Doctor's degrees, which consist of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), together with the professional doctorates such as Doctor of Engineering (EngD), Doctor of Management (DMan), Doctor of Clinical Psychology (DClinPsy) and so on. Like the MPhil, an initial doctorate is awarded in recognition of a programme of independent research. However a candidate for a Doctor's degree is required to make a significant original contribution to knowledge, in the case of the PhD, or to appropriate professional practice in the case of a professional doctorate.

The highest degrees awarded by the University are

the higher Doctor's degrees. A higher doctorate is awarded for original research which is of such distinction as to have established the candidate as a leading authority in their field, usually following a lifetime's work.

A postgraduate Master's degree or a higher doctorate may also be awarded *honoris causa*, that is to say, as an honorary award, to persons (frequently public figures) who have achieved eminence in their fields.

At the University of Hertfordshire, it is the level of an award that determines the academic dress of the holder. Since so much of our work is interdisciplinary, the University of Hertfordshire does not prescribe

distinctive dress for degrees in different subjects or disciplines. Nor do we make any distinction in garb between academic and professional or vocational awards. Holders of awards at the same level have equal status and, therefore, wear the same costume.

These levels are set out in Table 1 opposite, together with an indication of the type and length of study required. Page 17 contains a list of the University of Hertfordshire's awards together with the level of academic dress prescribed for each. The University also awards various types of certificate which do not confer the right to distinctive academic dress, and so are not considered here.



Table 1

Level	Qualification	Semesters of Study (Minimum)	Examples
1.	University Diploma	3	
2.	Advanced Diploma/Foundation Degree	4	
3.	Bachelor's Degree	6	BA, BSc, BEng, LLB
4*	Postgraduate Diploma/Graduate Diploma	6+2	
5.	Enhanced First Degree	8	MEng, MPharm
6*	Postgraduate Master's Degree	6+3	MA, MSc, LLM
7*	Senior Master's Degree	6+6	MPhil
8*	Initial Doctor's Degree	6+9	PhD, EngD, DMan, DClinPsy
9*	Higher Doctor's Degree	> 30	DLitt, DSc, LLD, DMus

The minimum study period is given assuming full-time study. As a general rule, part-time study for an award requires twice as long as full-time. Undergraduates usually undertake two semesters (28 weeks) of study each year, and postgraduates three semesters (42 weeks) per year. For postgraduate awards (marked with an * in Table 1), a Bachelor's degree is required before starting study. A complete list of the awards at each level is on page 17.



As the Latin name “cappa clausa” suggests, academic habits were originally closed in front and were pulled on over the head



For convenience the gown, which eventually became the outermost garment, was gradually split further and further down the front, with the split being held closed with buttons or ribbon ties. The modern fashion for wearing gowns completely open in front did not begin in England until the 17th century, when wigs became fashionable, and in most of North America academic gowns are now, once again, worn closed.

Three distinct patterns of gown are in use at the University of Hertfordshire, and these are shown in Figure 1 (overleaf). The three patterns are called the Bachelor’s gown, the Master’s gown, and the Doctor’s

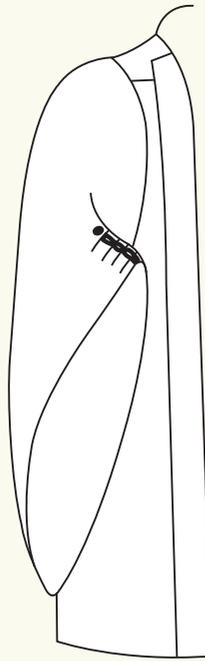
gown. These patterns differ primarily in the shape of the sleeve, which indicates the academic rank of the wearer.

The Bachelor’s gown is, in fact, the pattern worn by the holders of all awards below the level of a postgraduate Master’s degree, i.e. awards at the first five levels in Table 1. This includes the holders of postgraduate diplomas and of enhanced first degrees such as the MEng. The Bachelor’s gown can also be worn by undergraduates who do not yet possess any University award entitling them to Academic Dress.

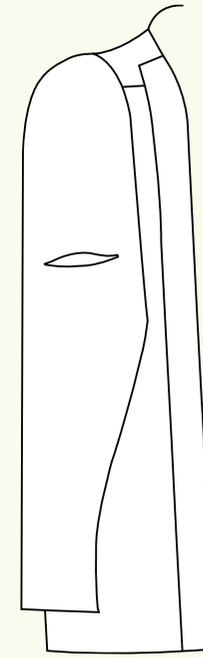


Figure 1

- a. The distinctive feature of the Bachelor's gown is the long open sleeves.
- b. The bat-winged Master's gown is worn only by the holders of awards at and above the level of a postgraduate Master's degree.
- c. The robe, or full-dress gown, for a Doctor's degree has bell shaped sleeves.
- d. The backs of the gowns are folded into tight organ-pipe pleats, which fasten onto a curved yoke.



a. Bachelor's gown



b. Master's gown

The shape of the sleeve indicates the academic rank of the wearer

The Bachelor's gown is made of black stuff (the technical term for a woollen material such as russell cord, or a synthetic substitute, which shows a visible weave) and is open to the front with two inch facings (turnbacks) of the same material down each side of the opening. The back of the gown is folded into tight organ-pipe pleats, which fasten onto a curved yoke that sits between the wearer's shoulders (see Figure 1d). The distinctive feature of the Bachelor's gown is the sleeves, shown in Figure 1a, which are long and open. At the back, each sleeve falls to a point which hangs the length of the gown. At the

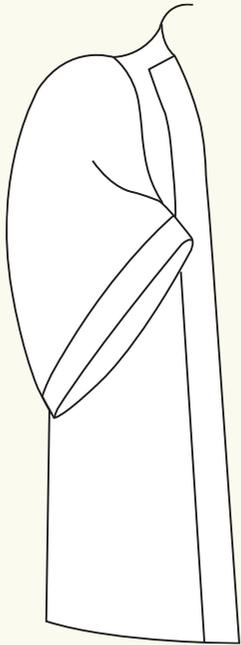
front, the sleeve is gathered up to the elbow in pleats, which are then fastened with a black cord and button.

The Master's gown is worn only by the holders of awards at and above the level of a postgraduate Master's degree, i.e awards at level six and above in Table 1. The Master's gown is made of black stuff, in a pattern which is similar to the Bachelor's gown apart from the sleeves. The sleeves of the Master's gown (shown in Figure 1b) are long and closed, hanging the length of the gown and cut square at the base. There is a horizontal slit at the level of the elbow to free the forearm. Although the batwing

sleeves do not confer superpowers upon the wearer, they form useful pockets to carry chalk or (more likely these days) a spare USB extension lead.

Doctors, uniquely, have two sets of academic dress. On formal and festive occasions they wear the coloured full-dress gowns (called robes) described in the next paragraph. In undress (that is to say, on informal or solemn occasions) doctors wear the black Master's gown.

The robe, or full-dress gown, for an initial Doctor's degree is made of dark red cloth (the technical term for any finely woven material with a flat finish, such



c. Doctor's full-dress robe



d. Yoke of gown

as woolen panama or a synthetic substitute). There are two major differences from the black gowns: the facings at the front, which are five inches wide, and the sleeves which are open and bell-shaped, hanging to the wearer's wrist (see Figure 1c). The facings of the gown are trimmed with purple watered (i.e. moiré) silk, and the sleeve is also trimmed (inside and out) with a five inch cuff of purple watered silk. (The term "silk" in descriptions of academic dress denotes any finely woven material with a shiny surface, whether natural or synthetic.)

The robe for a higher Doctor's degree follows the same pattern as that for an initial doctor, but is made of purple cloth, with trimmings of white linen damask on the facings and cuffs.

A small tribute to our history is included in the design of our gowns. The University of Hertfordshire began life in 1952 as Hatfield Technical College, and our degree students were entered as external candidates for the University of London examinations. In 1967 we became a Polytechnic, and our students were awarded their degrees by the Council for National Academic Awards. In 1992 we became a University, and acquired the power to award our own degrees. Our Bachelor's gown is the same pattern as that used by Bachelors at the University of London, and our Master's gown is the same pattern as that formerly prescribed for Masters by the CNAA. Our Doctor's gowns are distinctive to the University of

Hertfordshire, although they follow a common European pattern.

The use of the colours red and purple by Doctors in their robes as an alternative to black is very ancient, and the practice was already well established by the start of the fifteenth century. Even Henry VIII's rather draconian 1533 act for the "Reformacyon of excesse in apparayle", which amongst other provisions forbad the english clergy to wear anything imported from abroad, preserved the rights of those holding a Doctor's degree of any university to continue to wear "clothe of the colours of scarlett, murey [mulberry] or violett" in their gowns, even if they were clerks in orders, and without regard to their wealth or social background.

Figure 2

- a. Five hundred years ago: academic caps are round, with a tuft like a pompom in the centre of the crown.
- b. The shape changes to a square and the cap begins to flatten.
- c. The stiffening is reinstated in the form of a horizontal square.
- d. The square grows larger and the tassel appears.
- e. A modern looking trencher from two hundred years ago.
- f. The Doctor's round bonnet has remained relatively unchanged for over four hundred years.



a. Salamanca 1497



b. Lancelot Andrewes c.1610

Academic headgear has not always been square

The square cap (often colloquially known as a mortarboard) is properly referred to as a trencher. It consists of a black skull cap surmounted by a stiff square covered with black cloth, and with a black button and tassel in the centre of the square. The tassel fastens directly to the button, and is long enough to hang well over the edge of the square. (Figure 2e).

Academic headgear has not always been square. Until five hundred years ago academic caps were round, with a tuft rather like a pompom instead of a

tassel in the centre of the crown. In some parts of the continent stiffening was inserted vertically, so that the cap took the form of a tall cylinder. (Figure 2a).

By 1520 the University of Paris had instigated the use of square-based academic caps in place of round-based ones, a fashion which quickly spread to the rest of Europe. But it was the English universities, uniquely, which took the further innovation of leaving out the stiffening altogether, allowing the cap to collapse into a large floppy square (Figure 2b shows an intermediate form).

The square cap subsequently fused with the skullcap worn underneath, to become a single item. The resulting soft form of the square cap with a tuft in the middle is sometimes known as the Bishop Andrewes cap, and is closely related to the John Knox cap now worn in some Scottish universities.

The stiffening was being re-inserted in the form of a horizontal square by about 1600 (Figure 2c), and the modern form of the tassel made its appearance in the eighteenth century (Figure 2d).



c. Oxford 1674



d. Oxford 1770



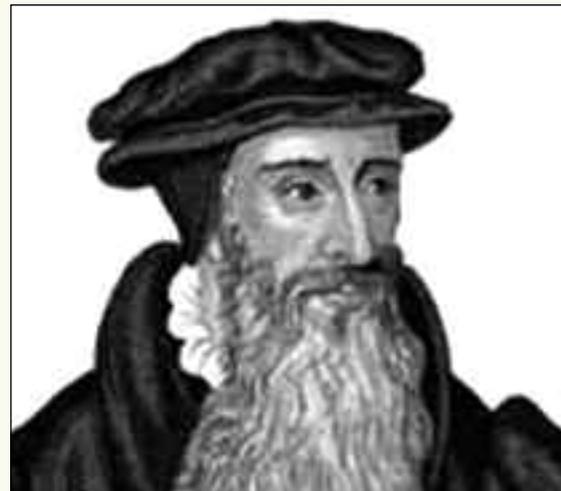
e. Cambridge 1815

In North America the tassel on the trencher has evolved further, and is usually shorter and attached to the button by a length of cord. This may be a relic of a vanished tradition of plaiting the tassel for a part of its length. The Senior Officers of the University of Hertfordshire wear tassels of this short form with their ceremonial robes. Everybody else wears the long tassel which fastens directly to the button of the trencher.

Originally the prerogative of senior graduates, the square cap now signifies merely that the wearer is a member of the University community, and today the square may be worn by freshly matriculated undergraduate students as well as by graduates.

In England in the sixteenth century, the holders of Doctor's degrees in subjects other than Divinity took to wearing a round Tudor bonnet with their full-dress robes instead of a square cap (Figure 2f). They still do. The Doctor's bonnet at the University of Hertfordshire is made of black cloth or velvet, with a stiff brim and soft crown, similar to the Beefeater's hat seen in the Tower of London or on certain bottles of gin. The bonnet is encircled between crown and brim with a grey cord ending in knots and tassels.

This bonnet is only worn by doctors with their full-dress robes: in undress, doctors wear the black square trencher.



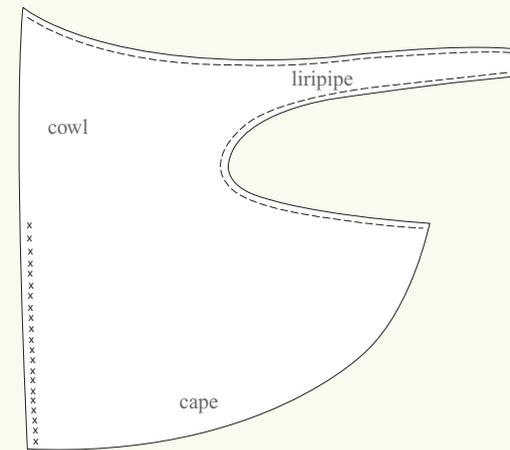
f. John Knox c.1570

Figure 3

- The three parts of the hood are the cape (which goes around the shoulders), the cowl (which goes over the head), and the liripipe (which wraps around the neck like a scarf).
- A flat pattern for a medieval hood, with dotted lines indicating the sewn seams, and crosses indicating the fastening up the front of the cape.
- A flat pattern for a more modern style of academic hood. This particular pattern is about two hundred years old.
- Over the next hundred years the pattern evolves ...
- ... into the pattern still used for hoods at the University of Hertfordshire today.



a.



b.

The medieval hood evolved into the modern academic form

Figure 3a shows a medieval hood as worn. The three parts of the hood are the cape (which goes around the shoulders), the cowl (which goes over the head), and the liripipe (which wraps around the neck like a scarf). A flat pattern for this type of hood is shown in Figure 3b, with dotted lines indicating the sewn seams, and crosses indicating the fastening up the front of the cape.

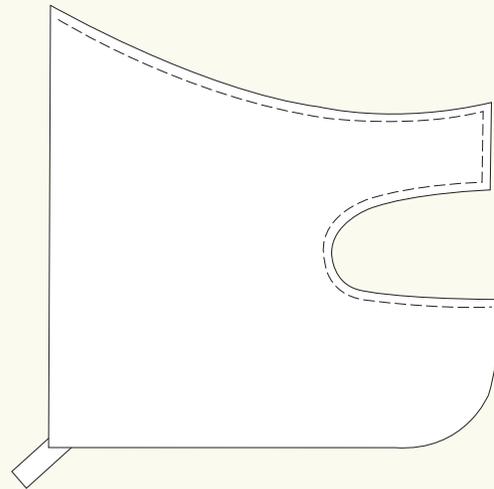
Figure 3c shows a flat pattern for a more modern style of academic hood. This particular pattern is about two hundred years old, and is one of those still in use at Durham University. The liripipe is shorter

and fatter than the medieval counterpart, and the cape is smaller. The cape is now split open all the way down the front, and held together with a ribbon at the bottom.

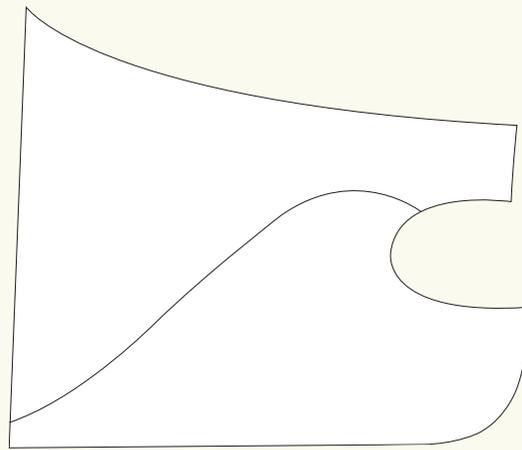
Originally this modification was introduced, like the fashion for wearing gowns open at the front, in order to allow academics to be donned and removed easily without disturbing the wearer's powdered wig. However it also led to the present practice of wearing academic hoods pushed back off the shoulders, so that the ribbon becomes a neckband and the hood hangs down low on the back, usually with the cowl edge flourished (turned slightly inside

out) so as to display part of the lining. The wigs are now long gone, but the academic fashions which they inspired remain.

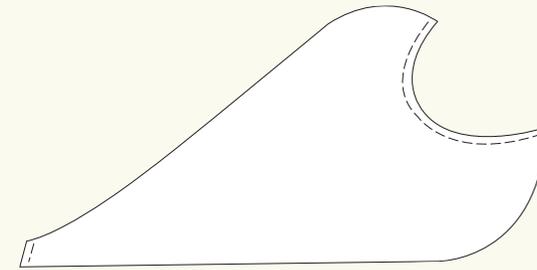
Figure 3e shows the pattern used for hoods at the University of Hertfordshire. This pattern is technically known, rather confusingly, as the Aberdeen CNAA full shape. Although Aberdeen now uses a modified form of this pattern, the Council for National Academic Awards gave the late 19th century style a new lease of life in the 1960s, and we inherited this pattern from them.



c.



d.



e.

The pattern for this hood is rather like that for a lined pair of trousers, and is sewn together in the same way:

First, cut two copies of the pattern from the outer body material, and two from the lining. Sew the two outer bodies together (rough side out) along the closed (dotted) seams. Do the same for the two linings, but leave the bottom seam of the liripipe open. Next, turn the linings smooth side out, slide them inside the outers, and sew one lining to each outer along the open (undotted) seams. Now turn the whole hood inside out through the hole in the lining left at the end of the liripipe, and tuck the liripipe lining back in.

The hood still has a full cape, but most of the liripipe and cowl have been cut away. This modification considerably reduces the amount of material that is required, and so is popularly (but apocryphally) attributed to the parsimony of Aberdonian tailors. The result is a hood which is light and comfortable to wear. The cowl edge is cut in a hook shape so that the hood can still be flourished, although it can no longer be pulled over the head. Doubtless in a hundred years' time the urban myth will be that the pattern was a response to legislation banning hoodies.

All the hoods at the University of Hertfordshire are the same size and shape, and have an outer body of cloth dyed in our own distinctive shade of University grey. The inner lining of silk distinguishes the

particular level of award held: for example, a lining of grey silk denotes a diploma; the hood for a Bachelor's degree is lined with white watered silk; and a purple watered silk lining denotes a postgraduate Master's degree.

As well as a lining, some hoods also have a facing, the technical term for a narrow band of trim in a contrasting colour running along the lining side of the cowl seam.

The hoods for the various levels of award in Table 1 are shown in the photographs on pages 16 and 17, and a quick recognition guide is given in Table 2 on page 16.







1

2

3

4

5

6

Table 2 University of Hertfordshire Hoods at a Glance

Lining	Facing (1")	Level of Award (see Tables 1 and 3)
Grey silk	None	1. Diploma
	White watered silk	2. Higher Diploma/Foundation Degree
	Purple watered silk	4. Postgraduate Diploma/Graduate Diploma
White watered silk	None	3. Bachelor's Degree
	Purple watered silk	5. Enhanced First Degree
Purple watered silk	None	6. Postgraduate Master's Degree
	Dark red watered silk	7. Master of Philosophy
	White damask (2")	9. Higher Doctor's Degree
Dark red watered silk	Purple watered silk	8. Initial Doctor's Degree

All hoods are Aberdeen CNAA full shape, made of grey cloth. The hood corresponding to each level of award can be seen in the pictures above.

Hoods 1-5 are worn with the Bachelor's gown and the square trencher. Hoods 6-7 are worn with the Master's gown and the square trencher. Hoods 8-9 are worn either with the undress black Master's gown and square trencher, or with the full dress coloured Doctor's robe and round bonnet.



7

8 Undress

8 Full dress

9 Undress

9 Full dress

Table 3 The following awards of the University carry with them an entitlement to wear academic dress. The levels correspond to those in Table 1.

Level 1	Dip	University Diploma	Level 5	MChem MEng MPharm MPhys	Master of Chemistry Master of Engineering Master of Pharmacy Master of Physics	Level 7	MPhil	Master of Philosophy
Level 2	FdA FdSc DipHE HDip HND EnhD	Foundation Degree (Arts) Foundation Degree (Science) Diploma of Higher Education University Higher Diploma Higher National Diploma Enhanced Diploma	Level 6	Hon MA Hon MLitt Hon MEd Hon LL M Hon MSc MA MBA MEd MHMED LL M MSc MRes	Honorary Master of Arts Honorary Master of Letters Honorary Master of Education Honorary Master of Laws Honorary Master of Science Master of Arts Master of Business Administration Master of Education Master of Health and Medical Education Master of Laws Master of Science Master of Research	Level 8	PhD DBA DMan EdD DClinPsy DHRes EngD MD	Doctor of Philosophy Doctor of Business Administration Doctor of Management Doctor of Education Doctor of Clinical Psychology Doctor of Health Research Doctor of Engineering Doctorate in Medicine
Level 3	BA BEd BEng LL B BSc BTech	Bachelor of Arts Bachelor of Education Bachelor of Engineering Bachelor of Laws Bachelor of Science Bachelor of Technology				Level 9	Hon DArt Hon DLitt Hon LL D Hon DSc DMus DLitt LL D DSc	Honorary Doctor of Arts Honorary Doctor of Letters Honorary Doctor of Laws Honorary Doctor of Science Doctor of Music Doctor of Letters Doctor of Laws Doctor of Science
Level 4	PgDip PGCE - DMS GradDip	Postgraduate Diploma Postgraduate Certificate in Education Professional Graduate Certificate in Education Diploma in Management Studies Graduate Diploma						



The University prescribes special costumes for certain of its officers to wear on ceremonial occasions

Officers' gowns are made in a pattern similar to the Master's gown, but have a flap collar covering the yoke. The pleats onto the yoke are flat rather than piped, and the sleeves are rectangular, with an inverted-T armhole. The gowns are trimmed down the facings, around the collar, and around the bottom of the sleeves and the armholes with lace in an oak leaf pattern, the Hatfield Oak being a symbol of our geographical roots.

The Chancellor is the ceremonial head of the University. His gown is made of purple silk brocade, trimmed with silver oak leaf lace, and has four inverted (point up) chevrons of this lace on each sleeve.

The Pro Chancellor is Chairman of the University's Board of Governors. His gown is royal blue brocade, trimmed with silver lace, but without the chevrons on the sleeve. The Chancellor's gown was originally also this colour, before the change was made to purple.

The Vice-Chancellor is the Chief Executive Officer of the University. His brocade is dark blue, with gold lace trim and chevrons.

Deputy Vice-Chancellors wear a gown of the same dark blue colour as the Vice-Chancellor wears, but made of plain cloth. The lace trim is gold, with no chevrons.

The Registrar is the University's senior Administrative Officer. He is also Secretary to the Governing Body. His gown is similar to that of a Deputy Vice-Chancellor, but is trimmed with silver lace.

With these robes the officers wear a velvet trencher. The button, cord, and tassel are silver or gold, matching the lace trim on the gown.

Fellows of the University (including Honorary Fellows) wear a gown of the same pattern as the senior officers, but made of grey cloth and trimmed with purple cloth and white damask.

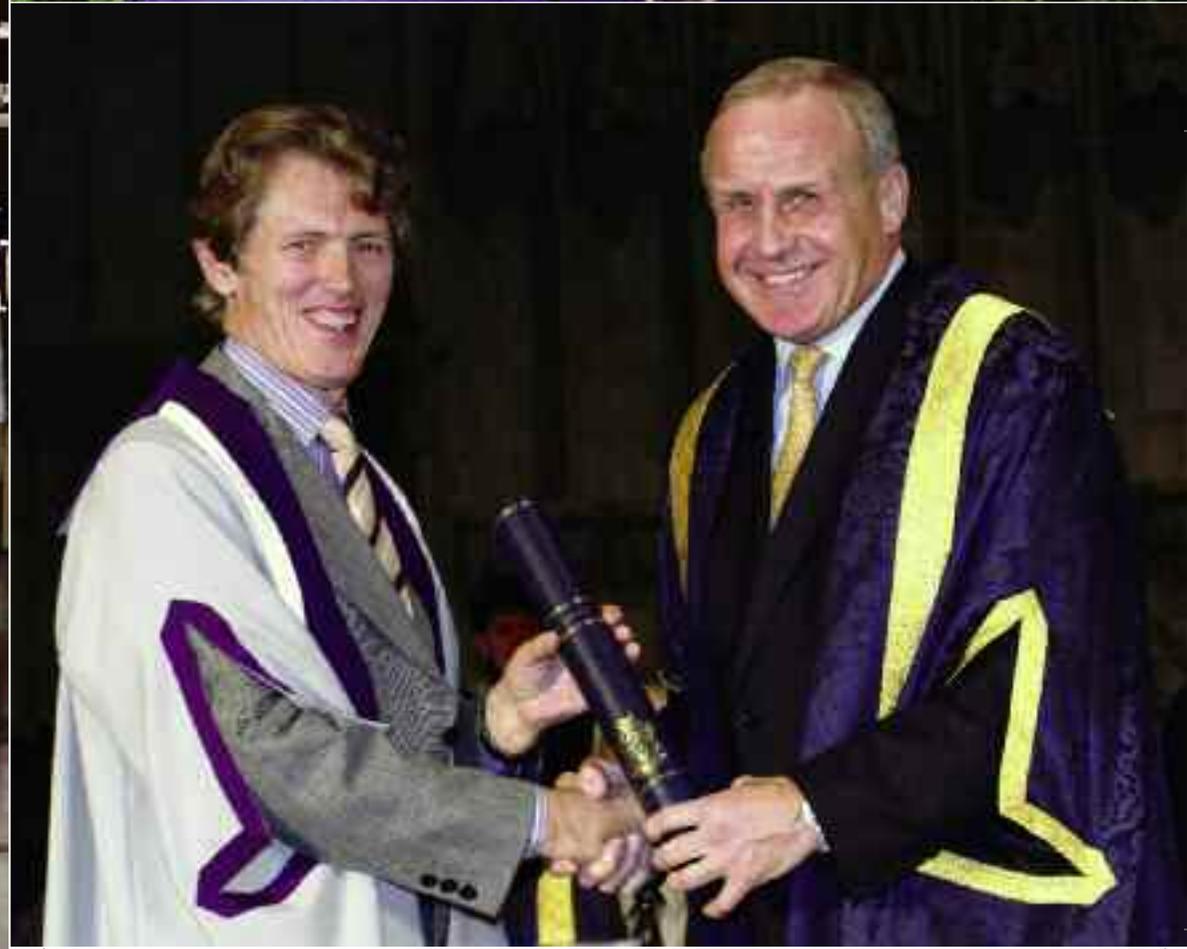






Table 4 University of Hertfordshire Officers' Robes: A Spotter's Guide

Colour	Trim	Sleeve Chevrons	Officer
Purple brocade	Silver lace	Four	Chancellor
Royal blue brocade	Silver lace	Four	Chancellor (original robe)
		None	Pro Chancellor
Dark blue brocade	Gold lace	Four	Vice-Chancellor
Dark blue cloth	Gold lace	None	Deputy Vice-Chancellor
	Silver lace	None	Secretary and Registrar
Grey cloth	Purple cloth & white damask	None	Fellow



Ushers at University of Hertfordshire ceremonies wear a plain purple cloth gown

This gown is similar in pattern to the Bachelor's gown shown in Figure 2a, but with flat pleats onto the yoke and without the cord and button or the gathers on the sleeve.

Other members of staff wear the robes to which their academic qualifications entitle them, typically that of the highest degree or diploma which they hold. The University of Hertfordshire regulations encourage University staff to wear the academic dress of the institution from which they themselves graduated. Although many staff members are University of Hertfordshire graduates, and thus wear the dress described in this book, each tertiary institution prescribes its own academic dress. Consequently, on ceremonial occasions a tremendous variety of plumage is to be seen.

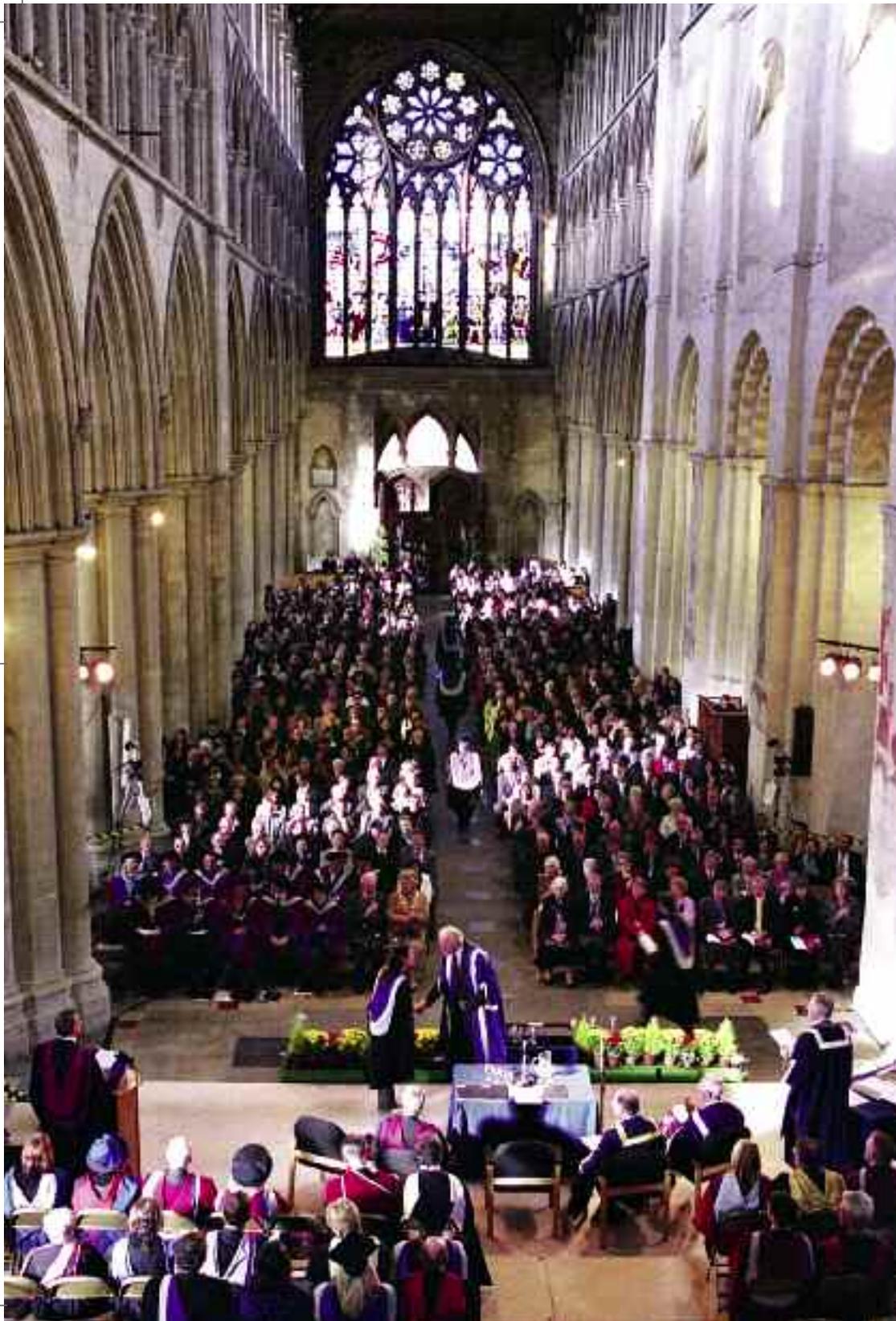
Attending an awards ceremony at the University of Hertfordshire is a little like being a twitcher, and there is always the prospect of spotting a rare bird from one

of the smaller British universities, or an exotic from America, the Commonwealth, or continental Europe.

Sadly, universities in some countries do not prescribe distinctive dress for their graduates, and even when they do it is not always easy to obtain from abroad. Consequently the University of Hertfordshire does permit all members of University staff to wear the academic dress described in this book for the nearest equivalent award, as an alternative to that prescribed by their own awarding institution.

This permission also applies to members of the University of Hertfordshire Alumni Association who are graduates of the Council for National Academic Awards, or of the University of London, in respect of a degree or diploma obtained as a result of study at this institution before it was designated a university with its own degree granting powers.





Universities such as Bologna, Paris, and Oxford have been awarding degrees for over eight hundred years. Like all younger siblings, the University of Hertfordshire has a little way to go before we catch up. But we stand four-square with them in the same living stream of tradition, and these strange clothes which we sometimes wear serve to remind us of our inheritance, and of the obligations which knowledge brings.





If you would like to find out more, here are some good introductory reference books which your library may be able to obtain for you

This little book deals only with the academic dress prescribed by the University of Hertfordshire. If you would like to find out more, then these three books are a good place to start:

- **W.N. Hargreaves-Mawdsley**, *A History of Academical Dress in Europe until the End of the Eighteenth Century*, Clarendon Press, Oxford 1963
- **G.W. Shaw**, *Academical Dress of British and Irish Universities*, 2nd edition Phillimore, Chichester 1995 (3rd edition in preparation)
- **H.H. Smith and K. Sheard**, *Academic Dress and Insignia of the World* (three volumes), A.A. Balkema, Cape Town 1970

In recent years there has been a revival of interest in the study of contemporary academic dress, and in its design and history. The Burgon Society is an historical

costume society devoted to the study of academic dress, and their website is <http://www.burgon.org.uk>

There is also a yahoo discussion group at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/academic_dress

The Burgon Society publishes quite a lot of material, including a learned journal (the Transactions), an extensive annotated bibliography (available online at <http://www.burgon.org.uk/society/library/biblio.html>), and the essential pocket field guide for spotters,

Nicholas Groves, *Key to the Identification of Academic Hoods of the British Isles*

Happy Reading!

UNIVERSITY OF HERTFORDSHIRE

REGULATIONS RELATING TO ACADEMIC DRESS

1 INTRODUCTION

The following regulations have been approved by the Academic Board.

2 REGULATIONS

- 2.1 All graduates and diplomates of the University shall be entitled to wear academic dress as set out in the Schedule Attached to Regulations Relating to Academic Dress (section 3, refers).
- 2.2 Members of staff of the University who are graduates of another institution shall be entitled to wear the academic dress prescribed by that institution on any occasion where the wearing of academic dress is prescribed by the University of Hertfordshire. Alternatively they may on such occasion wear the academic dress of the University of Hertfordshire prescribed for the nearest equivalent qualification.
- 2.3 Members of the Alumni Association who hold qualifications which included a substantial proportion of study at Hatfield Polytechnic, Hatfield College of Technology or Hatfield Technical College shall be entitled to wear the academic dress of the University of Hertfordshire prescribed for the nearest equivalent qualification.
- 2.4 The University prescribes academic dress for certain of its officers as set out in the Schedule Attached to Regulations Relating to Academic Dress (section 3, refers).
- 2.5 The University's academic dress will be worn at Awards ceremonies in accordance with the Schedule Attached to Regulations Relating to Academic Dress (section 3, refers).
- 2.6 The University shall appoint an official robe maker from time to time who shall advise on matters relating to robes and shall be the sole source of supply to the University.
- 2.7 Following consultation with the Vice-Chancellor, the Secretary and Registrar may from time to time make recommendations to the Academic Board for a formal approval to amend the Schedule Attached to Regulations Relating to Academic Dress (section 3, refers).

3 SCHEDULE ATTACHED TO REGULATIONS RELATING TO ACADEMIC DRESS

- 3.1 The University of Hertfordshire prescribes academic dress for its graduates (including diplomates), and for certain of its officers.
- 3.2 Graduates (including diplomates) of the University wear academic dress consisting of gown, cap and (on solemn or festive occasions) additionally a hood, prescribed as follows.
- 3.3 All gowns are worn 8" off the floor.
- 3.4 The Bachelor's gown is made of black stuff with facings down each side in front, a gathered yoke at the back, and long open sleeves falling at the back to a point hanging the length of the gown. The front of the sleeve is gathered up to the elbow, pleated and fastened with a black button and cord.
- 3.5 With this gown is worn or carried a black cloth trencher with a black button and tassel.

- 3.6 The Bachelor's gown is worn by the holder of any qualification at diploma or first degree level (including graduate or post-graduate diplomas, enhanced first degrees such as the MEng, and foundation degrees).
- 3.7 Other undergraduates, on any occasion when they are required to wear academic dress, may wear the Bachelor's gown without a hood.
- 3.8 The Master's gown is made of black stuff with facings down each side in front, a gathered yoke at the back, and long closed sleeves hanging the length of the gown and cut square at the base, with a horizontal armhole slit at the level of the elbow.
- 3.9 With this gown is worn or carried a black cloth trencher with black button and tassel.
- 3.10 The Master's gown is worn by the holder of any postgraduate or post-experience Master's degree (including research qualifications such as MPhil).
- 3.11 Doctors in undress wear the Master's gown. With their hoods, Doctors may wear a full dress robe instead of the undress gown.
- 3.12 The robe for an initial doctorate (such as the PhD) is made of dark red cloth with 5" facings of purple watered silk down each side in front, a gathered yoke at the back, and open bell shaped sleeves hanging to the wrist, trimmed inside and out with a 5" cuff of purple watered silk.
- 3.13 With this robe is worn or carried a black cloth bonnet with a grey cord and tassel.
- 3.14 The robe for a higher doctorate is made of purple cloth with 5" facings of white St Aidan damask down each side in front, a gathered yoke at the back, and open bell shaped sleeves hanging to the wrist, trimmed inside and out with a 5" cuff of white damask.
- 3.15 With this robe is worn or carried a black velvet bonnet with a grey cord and tassel.
- 3.16 The hoods for all degrees (including diplomas) are traditionally made in an Aberdeen full shape, and worn flourished (ie with the cowl edge turned back so as to display the lining).
- 3.17 The shell (ie outer body) of all hoods is made of cloth in a distinctive shade of university grey.
- 3.18 The hood for an undergraduate diploma is lined with grey silk. The hood for a graduate or postgraduate diploma is lined with grey silk and faced (ie trimmed on the lining side of the cowl edge) with 1" purple watered silk.
- 3.19 The hood for a foundation degree or equivalent award is lined with grey silk and faced with 1" white watered silk. The hood for a Bachelor's degree is lined with white watered silk. The hood for an enhanced first degree is lined with white watered silk and faced with 1" purple watered silk.
- 3.20 The hood for all postgraduate or post-experience Master's degrees other than MPhil is lined with purple watered silk.
- 3.21 The hood for an MPhil is lined with purple watered silk and faced with 1" dark red watered silk.
- 3.22 The hood for an initial doctorate is lined with dark red watered silk and faced with 1" purple watered silk.

- 3.23 The hood for a higher doctorate is lined with purple watered silk and faced with 2" white St Aidan damask.
- 3.24 The University Visitor has the dignity of a higher doctor of the University, and is entitled to wear the dress prescribed for that degree.
- 3.25 The Chancellor wears a gown made of royal blue or of purple silk damask in a distinctive weave. The gown has facings down each side in front, a flat collar at the back, and long closed sleeves hanging the length of the gown and cut square at the base, with an armhole in the shape of an inverted 'T' at the level of the elbow. The gown is trimmed down the facings, around the collar and across the bottom of the sleeves with 2" wide silver lace in oakleaf pattern, and around the armhole with 1" wide silver oakleaf lace. Each sleeve is decorated beneath the armhole with four evenly spaced chevrons of 2" silver oakleaf lace in the shape of an inverted 'V'.
- 3.26 With the Chancellor's gown is worn a black velvet trencher with silver button and tassel, trimmed around the skull cap with 1" silver oakleaf lace.
- 3.27 The Pro-Chancellor on ceremonial occasions wears a gown similar to the Chancellor's gown, but without the four chevrons of lace on the sleeve.
- 3.28 With the Pro-Chancellor's gown is worn a black velvet trencher with silver button and tassel.
- 3.29 Fellows and Honorary Fellows of the University wear a gown made of University grey cloth, with long closed sleeves hanging the length of the gown and cut square at the base. The armhole is the shape of an inverted 'T' at the level of the elbow, and is trimmed outside with one inch purple cloth. The gown has a flap collar at the back made of purple cloth, and facings down each side in front made of purple cloth and trimmed down the outer edge with two inches of white St Aidan damask.
- 3.30 The Vice-Chancellor on ceremonial occasions wears a gown similar to the Chancellor's gown, but made of dark blue silk damask in a distinctive weave and trimmed with gold oakleaf lace.
- 3.31 With the Vice-Chancellor's gown is worn a black velvet trencher with gold button and tassel.
- 3.32 A Deputy Vice-Chancellor on a ceremonial occasion wears a gown similar to the Pro-Chancellor's gown but made of dark blue cloth and trimmed with gold oakleaf lace.
- 3.33 With this gown is worn a black velvet trencher with gold button and tassel.
- 3.34 The Secretary and Registrar (or his or her deputy acting in substitution) on ceremonial occasions wears a gown similar to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor's gown, but made of dark blue cloth and trimmed with silver oakleaf lace.
- 3.35 With this gown is worn a black cloth trencher with silver button and tassel.
- 3.36 On ceremonial occasions, persons acting as official ushers/stewards wear, without cap or hood, a gown made of purple stuff with facings down each side in front, a gathered yoke at the back, and long open sleeves falling at the back to a point hanging the length of the gown. The front of the sleeve is cut so as to hang just below the elbow.





About the Author

Bruce Christianson is Professor of Informatics at the University of Hertfordshire, where he has taught since 1987. Born in Whangarei, New Zealand, he was educated at Kings School and Kings College Auckland before going on to read Mathematics at the Victoria University of Wellington and at the University of Oxford, where he obtained his MSc and DPhil degrees respectively. He is a Fellow of the New Zealand Mathematical Society, and a foundation Fellow of the Burgon Society. He has been engaged in a comparative analytical study of academic dress since he first encountered it at the age of four, and his interest in the topic is now probably incurable. He has published a number of learned articles researching obscure aspects of the subject and was a member of the committee that designed the scheme of academic dress for the University of Hertfordshire.

About the Designer

Kate Douglas was born and bred in Hertfordshire. She gained extensive experience working as a graphic designer and as a studio manager, before joining the University of Hertfordshire in 1994. Since then she has been responsible for designing the programme for nearly a hundred awards ceremonies, and had often wondered idly about the origin and significance of the various academic costumes which feature in them. Now she knows.

Contents

Introduction	2
Degrees and Diplomas	3
Gowns	6
Caps	10
Hoods	12
Hood Key	16
List of Awards	17
University Officers	18
University Staff	22
Further Information	25
Regulations	26

