



## MA Day 19<sup>th</sup> May 2012 – General Information

### STANDING

#### MA candidates

Eligibility for the MA is governed by three conditions:

- a) You have graduated to an undergraduate degree from the University of Cambridge;
- b) **Six years and one term** must have elapsed since you matriculated;
- c) **And at least two years** must have elapsed since you graduated.

Affiliated students become eligible five years after their first date of residence. If you intend to take your MA under a statutory provision not listed above, please let the Praelector's Secretary know the details of your circumstances in writing. No letter of approval is issued by the Board of Graduate Studies for the Cambridge MA.

### MA DAY

We offer Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2012 as a special 'MA Day' and encourage as many as possible of those who matriculated in 2005 to return on this date, when we will offer an enhanced programme of events for you and your guests. The provisional schedule for the MA Day is as follows:

- 10.30** Tea & coffee in the Denis Murphy Gallery, Cripps Court (*for those graduating only*)
- 11.00** Group photograph, Cripps Court
- 11.15** Welcome from the Master in Cripps Auditorium and briefing from the Praelector (*please note that the briefing is compulsory for all graduands*)
- c. 12.00-12.30** Graduands assemble in First Court in preparation for processing to the Senate House
- c. 12.45-13.15** MA Ceremony, Senate House  
Guests need to be at Senate House and seated before the beginning of the session at which Magdalene graduands will be presented – late admission is not permitted
- c. 14.00** Garden Party and buffet lunch in the Master's Garden for graduates & guests

**NB** The precise time of the ceremony varies from year to year and we will not know the exact timetable of proceedings until the Tuesday preceding the ceremony. Thus it may be necessary to

advance this timetable or reorganise elements of it. Those who have indicated a clear intention to attend will be notified of any changes by e-mail.

The degree may be taken in person or in absence on MA Day as indicated on the application form. Application to graduate should be in writing, by completing the [application form](#) and required payment, and should arrive with the Praelector's Secretary, College Office **at least four weeks** before the date of the Congregation.

### TAKING THE MA NOT ON MAY DAY

The degree may be taken in person or in absence at congregations throughout the year as indication on the relevant application form. The [application form](#) and required payment should be completed and returned to the Praelector's Secretary, College Office at least *three weeks* prior to the chosen congregation. On graduation dates other than MA Day, while we host a graduation lunch in College for all graduands and their guests (maximum of three per graduand) we do not provide a reunion style event like that on the designated MA Day.

### DRESS

**Women:** Plain dark (i.e. black, very dark blue or very dark grey) dress, suit, trouser suit or skirt with white blouse. Sleeves must be long or three-quarter length. A white or black cardigan may be worn. White bands may be worn (optional) but not bow ties. Tights should be plain, black or neutral coloured with plain black shoes (no boots, sandals or open-toed shoes). Very short skirts or very high heels should be avoided as you will need to kneel during the course of the ceremony. Candidates should also wear the correct academic dress (gown and hood).

**Men:** Black dinner jacket and trousers or plain dark suit (i.e. black, very dark blue or very dark grey), plain white shirt, white bow tie and bands, plain black shoes (no sandals), black socks. Candidates should also wear the correct academic dress (gown and hood).

The overall effect should be formal and tidy. Conspicuous jewellery should not be worn nor body jewellery (men or women). Dyed hair (other than natural colour) is not acceptable.

N.B. Besides your gown and hood etc, graduands must meet the dress code immediately above; there will be a **compulsory** briefing from the Praelector in College, before the ceremony, at which graduands' dress will be checked. The Proctors have given notice that anyone inappropriately dressed will not be allowed to proceed to their degree that day.

**Exceptions to the above dress code will only be considered for religious or cultural reasons and must have prior written approval.**

If you wish to apply for such exemption, you must do so at least three weeks before the relevant congregation date. Please contact the Praelector's Secretary in the College Office ([congregations@magd.cam.ac.uk](mailto:congregations@magd.cam.ac.uk)) in the first instance.

## ACADEMICAL DRESS

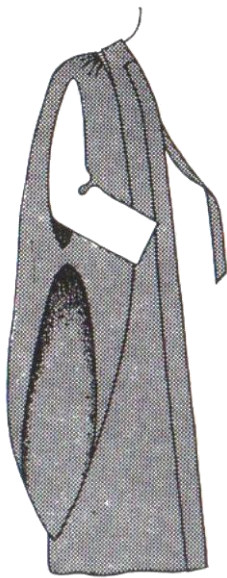
Please note that the academical dress information provided above (dark suit/etc.) also applies to MA graduands. In addition, MA graduands should note that the 'BA Gown' that they are required to wear is **not** the same as his/her undergraduate gown.

Graduates holding the BA (only) who are taking the MA wear the BA gown and BA hood, while graduates holding both the BA and a higher degree (e.g. MEng or MSci) wear the gown and hood of the higher degree.

BA gowns have a similar shape to Magdalene undergraduate gowns, but differ from them in the following ways:

- (1) they are noticeably longer;
- (2) they do not have cords and buttons at the elbow of the sleeve;
- (3) they have 'strings' (ribbons attached on each side to the edge of the gown).

The images below show a drawing of a BA gown, and a BA gown and hood being worn (the latter image indicates the length of a BA gown) and the diagram on p. 6 may help you to work out your correct academical dress. In the case of those taking the MA the answer should invariably be "B".



Cambridge B.A.



Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)

## GARMENT HIRE

You may hire or buy academic dress from any of the following Cambridge suppliers:

### A.E. CLOTHIER

7 Pembroke Street, Cambridge, CB2 3QY  
01223 354339  
[www.aeclothier.co.uk](http://www.aeclothier.co.uk)  
sales@aeclothier.co.uk

### EDE & RAVENSCROFT

70-72 Trumpington Street, Cambridge, CB2 1RJ  
01223 861854 (on-line discount will not apply if  
ordered by phone)  
[www.gownhire.co.uk](http://www.gownhire.co.uk)  
cambridge@edeandravenscroft.com

### RYDER & AMIES

22 King's Parade, Cambridge, CB2 1SP  
01223 350371  
[www.ryderamies.co.uk](http://www.ryderamies.co.uk)  
rental@ryderamies.co.uk

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Accommodation

Unfortunately it is not possible to offer accommodation in College for MA Day attendees (graduands or guests) because the ceremony takes place during Full Term and undergraduates are therefore in residence.

### SENATE HOUSE PROCEDURE - Guests

Congregations are on Saturdays and last for about 30 to 40 minutes. Relatives and friends are welcome in the Senate House; however tickets are required and are limited to three per graduand. It is inadvisable to bring babies or very young children. We will not know until the week before the ceremony what time the College will be presented, and hence when guests will be admitted. It is *occasionally* possible for the College to re-allocate any 'spare' tickets but this cannot be guaranteed and can only be confirmed 1-2 weeks before the ceremony itself. Guests **must** have their tickets in order to gain admission to the Senate House and must be on time according to the schedule notified to graduands by e-mail a few days before the ceremony date. Late admission to the Senate House is not permitted under any circumstances. Guests may have to queue for entry and there is not a great deal of shelter so guests should be advised to be prepared in case of rain.

Once inside, seats are available in the Gallery or on the ground floor and guests must remain seated for the entire session – several Colleges may be presented in each session and each graduand leaves immediately after their degree is conferred, so they will be able to wait for and meet guests outside the Senate House when the session is finished.

The Senate House has a strict policy of no smoking and no photography/recording equipment. Mobile phones should also be turned off or muted and may not be used during the ceremony. The University Combination Room is usually open on such days to those attending the congregation for the purchase of light refreshments.

## Special requirements

The Senate House officials prefer to have advance notice of any special access requirements in advance so that any necessary arrangements can be made. Graduands who wish to have their degree conferred without kneeling or with the non-Trinitarian formula should contact the Praelector's Secretary in advance.

## Photographs

Every graduand has a photograph taken inside the Senate House. This is available to order in advance or on the day of the ceremony from the marquee in Senate House Yard and is administered by the **University's Photography and Illustration Service**, which is also available to take photographs of graduands and their guests outside the Senate House if desired. More details and the advance order form can be found on the University's website:

<http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/univ/degrees/photography/>

## CONTACT INFORMATION

For application, payment, guest ticket and general booking queries the Praelector's Secretary can be contacted on:

Praelector's Secretary  
College Office  
Magdalene College  
Cambridge  
CB3 0AG  
Email: [congregations@magd.cam.ac.uk](mailto:congregations@magd.cam.ac.uk)  
Telephone: 01223 332107

For updating your contact details please contact:

The Alumni & Development Office  
Magdalene College  
Cambridge  
CB3 0AG  
Email: [alumni@magd.cam.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@magd.cam.ac.uk)

**Appendix:**

**Working Out Your Correct Academic Dress**

