

Graduation 2026

Frequently Asked Questions

Wednesday 21 October 2026 | Manchester Hall

Booking and Tickets

How do I book my place?

Your graduation invitation email includes a link to book your student and guest tickets.

All tickets must be booked together in the same transaction.

How many guest tickets can I book?

Guest tickets cost £15 each. You can book up to three guest tickets.

Each guest must have a valid ticket to enter the ceremony. Additional tickets may become available after the booking deadline. Any updates will be communicated by email.

Guest tickets include:

- Entry to the graduation ceremony
- Access to the post-ceremony reception

Ticket QR codes must be presented on arrival and may be shared directly with your guests.

What if I miss the booking deadline?

Students who miss the booking deadline may need to defer their attendance to the next available graduation ceremony.

Contact graduation@manchester.ugm.ac.uk as soon as possible to discuss your options. Requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Can I attend if I have outstanding fees?

Outstanding fees may prevent you from booking your graduation place. You must also have successfully completed your studies to be eligible to attend.

Graduation Day

What time should I arrive?

Check-in opens at 10:30. Please arrive promptly and bring your confirmation email containing your QR code.

Where will I sit?

Graduates will be allocated a specific seat based on the order in which they will cross the stage. Ushers will help you find your seat.

Please remain in your allocated seat throughout the ceremony unless instructed otherwise by a member of staff.

What happens after the ceremony?

Following the ceremony, graduates and guests are invited to attend a celebratory reception from 13:00 to 15:00.

Light refreshments will be served, with opportunities to take photographs and celebrate with fellow graduates, guests and academics.

Gowns and photography

How do I arrange my graduation gown?

Academic dress must be hired in advance through William Northam, our official gown supplier. Booking instructions and a link will be provided in your graduation invitation email.

Your gown, hood and motorboard will be collected from the designated gowning area at the venue. Staff will be available to assist you.

When do I return my gown?

Your academic dress must be returned on the same day, either after the ceremony or during the reception.

Please follow the instructions provided by staff and ensure all items are returned before leaving the venue, unless another arrangement has been agreed in advance.

Will professional photography be available?

Official graduation photography will be available before the ceremony, between 11:00 to 12:00.

Graduation merchandise will also be available from designated stands before and after the ceremony.

Guests and accessibility

Where will guests sit?

Guests will be seated separately from graduates. Guest seating is not pre-allocated, and every guest must present a valid ticket to enter.

Can children attend?

Children are welcome, but anyone under 16 must remain supervised by an accompanying adult throughout the event.

Children over two years old require a valid guest ticket. Please be aware that the graduation ceremony is a formal event and may not be suitable for very young children.

How do I request accessibility support?

Please let us know about any accessibility requirements before booking your ticket, wherever possible. Support will also be available at the venue on the day.

Please contact graduation@manchester.ugm.ac.uk to discuss your requirements.

International Students

What should I do if my student visa expires before graduation?

You may need to return to your home country and apply for a Standard Visitor visa before travelling back to the UK. In these circumstances, you cannot apply for a Standard Visitor visa from within the UK.

You are responsible for checking that you meet all current UKVI requirements before travelling.

Can my family apply for visas to attend?

Guests who require permission to enter the UK may also need to apply for a Standard Visitor visa.

You may need to provide supporting documentation confirming the graduation date, ceremony details and completion of your course.

For additional support or information about graduation invitation letters, contact:

iCentre@manchester.ugm.ac.uk

Still have questions?

For graduation-related enquiries, contact:

graduation@manchester.ugm.ac.uk