

UWS Graduation: Autumn 2023 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

We are pleased to announce that information about UWS London Graduation ceremonies in Autumn 2023 is now available.

The following information will give you an idea of what to expect at your graduation and answer some common questions. The FAQs will be updated accordingly over the coming weeks.

1. When will the graduations take place?

The events will take place on Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd September 2023. The schedule showing which programmes and Schools will be attending each ceremony can be found on the UWS graduation website (www.uws.ac.uk/current-students).

Arrangements for in-person ceremonies may be subject to change in line with Government restrictions and the University reserves the right to make adjustments as required. Any changes will be communicated to you via email, to your UWS and personal email addresses which we hold on the system.

In the event that graduation is cancelled for any reason, the University does not accept liability for direct or indirect loss or damages incurred. This includes any loss incurred with external suppliers, such as travel, accommodation, photography or robing. We would recommend that you consider the cancellation and refund policies of any suppliers before making a booking with them and you may also wish to consider having appropriate insurance in place.

2. Where will the graduations be held?

The physical graduation ceremonies will take place in St Marylebone Church, 17 Marylebone Rd, London NW1 5LT. Information about St Marylebone Church can be found at <https://www.stmarylebone.org>.

3. Who is being invited to register for the Autumn 2023 graduation?

The Autumn 2023 ceremonies are for all London Campus students whose awards have been confirmed at the Term 2 School Boards of Examiners.

4. I am due to graduate in Autumn 2023 – what is happening with my graduation?

The University will be holding its physical graduations in St Marylebone Church in London and we hope that as many graduands as possible will attend the event to which they are invited *. However, we recognise that not all graduands or their family members will be able

or want to attend, and so the University is also organising a virtual graduation on **Friday 10th November 2023** for those students who would prefer to attend an online event.

The virtual ceremonies will be hosted on our high-quality online events platform and will be live streamed on the UWS YouTube channel, so that family and friends can watch the proceedings, either in real time or on demand. Links to watch each ceremony will be available on the UWS graduation website nearer the time.

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5. How will I know if I am eligible to graduate in Autumn 2023?

You should have by now received an email inviting you to register for your graduation. However, if you think you are eligible to graduate (see Question 3) and have not heard from us, please contact graduationenquiries@uws.ac.uk as a matter of urgency.

6. When do I choose between the physical ceremony or the virtual ceremony?

You will be asked at the time of registration to indicate whether you wish to attend the physical graduation for your programme in September 2023, or whether you would like to attend the online ceremony instead in November 2023, or whether you wish to graduate in absentia in September 2023.

Due to the timescales for arranging each event, it will not be possible to change your preference after the registration period has closed.

7. What do I choose if I am not able to attend either the physical ceremony or the virtual ceremony?

If you are unable to attend either the physical or virtual ceremony, then when you complete the registration process, you should indicate that you wish to graduate "*in absentia*" on the day of your physical ceremony.

8. What does '*in absentia*' mean?

Graduating "*in absentia*" means the University will confer your award without you attending a ceremony. Your award parchment will then be sent to you by post after the ceremony to the address you provide during your registration process.

9. Will I be able to defer my graduation?

No, it is not possible to defer your graduation until a later time. By introducing a virtual ceremony in addition to physical events, and also giving you the opportunity to graduate “*in absentia*”, you will have a range of opportunities to graduate without delay and in the way which best suits you so that you can provide evidence of your UWS qualifications to future employers/academic institutions for further study.

If you are unable to attend your physical graduation and do not wish to attend the virtual event, your award will be conferred “*in absentia*” on the day of the physical ceremony.

10. Will there be any UWS charges for students to attend the virtual or physical graduations?

No, the University is delighted to be able to offer the graduation ceremonies at no cost to students. There will however be a cost for all guest tickets to attend the physical ceremony in St Marylebone Church (see Question 19).

11. If I am not attending a physical graduation, to what address will my parchment be sent?

If you completed graduation registration and registered to graduate in absentia, your parchment will be sent by post during October 2023 to the address noted during your registration process. If your address has changed since you registered, please email graduationenquiries@uws.ac.uk.

If you completed graduation registration and registered to take part in the online graduation on 10th November 2023, your parchment will be sent by post at the end of November 2023 to the address noted during your registration process. If your address has changed since you registered, please email graduationenquiries@uws.ac.uk.

If you were eligible to graduate and did not register on time, your award will still be conferred “*in absentia*”. Your name will not be included in any listings and will not be read out as part of the graduation. You will need to contact us to confirm your current address before your parchment can be sent.

12. When will I find out the time of my virtual graduation?

The schedule showing which programmes and Schools will be attending each ceremony will be available on the UWS graduation website in October 2023 (www.uws.ac.uk/current-students). The University will also contact you with more details closer to the date of the ceremony.

13. If I am unable to participate at the scheduled date/time, can I change to another physical ceremony?

Unfortunately, no, each programme in each School has an allocated ceremony and therefore it is not possible to request a change to a different date or time.

14. How long will each ceremony last?

The physical ceremonies in St Marylebone Church will last about an hour.

The virtual ceremony should last about 45 minutes. Virtual ceremonies will be live broadcasts, so you must be logged in to attend at the allotted time you will be given. Your family and friends will also be able to log in and watch the ceremony live from anywhere in the world via YouTube. You will be provided with the relevant live-stream link for your graduation ceremony nearer the time. Afterwards a recording of the ceremony will be available on our UWS YouTube channel for on-demand viewing.

15. Do I need to register for my graduation?

Yes, all eligible Autumn 2023 graduands must register for their graduation ceremony, whether they choose to attend the physical ceremony, attend the virtual event or graduate "*in absentia*" from the physical ceremony. If you do not register, your award will still be conferred using personal information currently held in your student record but your parchment will not be posted to you until you have contacted us to confirm your current address.

16. How do I hire my academic robe/hood for the physical graduation?

Academic robe and hood to wear at the physical graduation can be hired from the University's official gown provider, Ede & Ravenscroft at <https://www2.edeandravenscroft.com/graduation/index/>. Please note that the link will close on 7th September so you should hire your academic robe and hood **no later than 7th September 2023**.

17. What is UWS academic dress?

Pictures showing various examples of UWS academic robe and hood can be found on the UWS graduation website (www.uws.ac.uk/current-students).

Please note that only official academic dress will be allowed during the physical ceremonies. If unofficial robes and hoods are worn, they will be removed before you cross the stage at the graduation ceremony.

18. Will I be able to hire academic dress when I participate in the virtual graduation?

There is no opportunity for gown hire for the virtual graduations. If you'd like to get into the celebratory spirit, please do feel free to dress to impress for your virtual live graduation ceremony. Please note that at the virtual ceremony, only your head and shoulders will be visible on screen.

19. How many guests may I bring to my physical graduation?

Each graduand will be able to purchase up to 2 guest tickets at the time of registration at £15 per guest ticket. You can purchase up to two guest tickets using the following link: <https://shop.uws.ac.uk/product-catalogue/graduation-tickets/graduation-tickets/graduation-tickets/london-graduation-tickets-september-2023>. If any additional tickets for guests become available, they will be distributed via a ballot and will then need to be purchased. More details on how to request additional ballot tickets will be provided during registration.

Please note that the graduation is a formal ceremony. The entire proceedings can take about an hour and are not therefore considered suitable for pre-school aged children.

20. Can I bring young children to the graduation ceremony?

Unfortunately the graduation ceremony last about an hour and we are therefore strongly recommending that pre-school children should not attend.

21. I would like to invite my family/friends from abroad to attend my graduation as guests – what documents do we need?

Please contact internationaladvice@uws.ac.uk for more information.

22. Can mobile phones be used during graduation ceremonies?

Although phones can be used for photography, all graduands and their guests must ensure that all mobile phones are on silent mode throughout the ceremony.

We also ask all graduands and guests not to conduct conversations during the ceremonies in order to enable the names of all graduands to be heard clearly and to make the ceremony enjoyable for everybody.

23. Can my guests take photographs during the ceremony?

Yes, photographs may be taken during the ceremony (no drones, please), although we ask that guests are considerate to other guests sitting near them when standing up to take photographs.

24. Will there be official graduation photographs?

Yes, the University's official photography partners will be present at the physical events and you can pre-book your photographs using the following link:

www.marstonevents.com/UWS. Please note that the link will close on 13th September so you should pre-book your photographs **no later than 13th September 2023**.

25. Will I have any souvenirs from my virtual graduation?

A printed copy of the graduation programme will be made available for graduands attending the events in St Marylebone Church.

For graduands attending the virtual ceremony, we will publish a souvenir graduation programme which you can save digitally or print. Your friends and family will be able to view your graduation ceremony live online and our digital platform will provide a recording of the virtual ceremony which can be accessed over and over again.

26. When will I receive my award parchment if I don't attend a physical ceremony?

If you completed graduation registration and registered to graduate in absentia, your parchment will be sent by post during October 2023 to the address noted during your registration process. If your address has changed since you registered, please email graduationenquiries@uws.ac.uk.

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27. Cancellation / Liability

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28. Where can I get more information about the Autumn 2023 graduation?

We appreciate that you may have other questions about the event, and we will endeavour to add more information to this page as we finalise arrangements. Please check back regularly.

If you have any specific questions please contact us by email to graduationenquiries@uws.ac.uk

UWS Registry
22nd August 2023