UWS Graduation: Autumn 2022 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

We are pleased to announce that information about UWS London Graduation ceremonies in Autumn 2022 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 be scheduled on Thursday 27th October. The schedule showing which programmes and Schools will be attending each ceremony can be found on the UWS graduation website ([Graduation | UWS | University of the West of Scotland](https://www.uws.ac.uk/graduation)).

The physical graduations will take place in a COVID-19 secure way and will be aligned with national guidelines in place at the time of the events. *

*In the event that the graduation is cancelled for any reason, the University does not accept liability for direct or indirect loss or damages incurred as a result of the cancellation of the event. 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 in London, 17 Marylebone Rd, London NW1 5LT. Information about St Marylebone Church can be found at [https://www.stmarylebone.org](https://www.stmarylebone.org).

3. **Who is being invited to register for the Autumn 2022 graduation?**
The Autumn 2022 ceremonies are for all London Campus students who are eligible to graduate by 30th September 2022.

4. **I am due to graduate in Autumn 2022 – 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 11th November 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 2022?**
   You should have by now been invited to register for your graduation ceremony. However, if you are eligible to graduate (see Question 3) and have not heard from us by now, 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 on 27th October, or whether you would like to attend the online, virtual ceremony instead on Friday 11th November.

   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 noted 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 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 be a cost for 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, your parchment will be sent by post in late November 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 and home address currently held in your student record will be used for parchment production and posting.

12. When will I find out the time of my virtual graduation?
The schedule showing which programmes and Schools will be attending each ceremony can be found on the UWS graduation website (Graduation | UWS | University of the West of Scotland).

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 2022 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.

16. How do I hire academic dress for the physical graduation?
Details of how to hire the academic gown to wear at the physical graduation will be provided as part of the registration process.

17. What is UWS academic dress?
Pictures showing various examples of UWS academic dress can be found here. Please note that only official academic dress will be allowed during the physical ceremonies. If unofficial robes and hoods are worn they must be removed before you graduate.

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 ticket. If any additional tickets for guests become available, they will be distributed via a ballot. 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 longer than an hour and are not therefore considered suitable for pre-school aged children.

20. Will there be official graduation photographs?
Yes, the University’s official photography partners will be present at the physical events and more information on how to book photographs will be provided when you register for the graduation.

21. Will I have any souvenirs from my virtual graduation?
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.
A printed copy of the graduation programme will be made available for graduands attending the events in St Marylebone Church.

You can purchase a range of quality UWS branded merchandise, should you wish to do so, and further information and ordering details will be made available in due course.

22. When will I receive my award parchment if I don’t attend a physical ceremony?
If you completed graduation registration, your parchment will be sent by post in late November to the address noted during your registration process. If your address has changed since this time please email graduationenquiries@uws.ac.uk. If you were eligible to graduate but did not register on time, your award will still be conferred *in absentia* and your parchment posted to the home address held in your student record.

23. I need confirmation of my academic award before my ceremony – what should I do?
Parchments cannot be provided until after you have graduated. However, an authorised version of your Academic Transcript showing your progress to date on all the modules you have studied is available at any time – this should be requested by email to hub@uws.ac.uk. It will be updated to include your final award decision within two weeks of the meeting of the School Board of Examiners where any award is approved. This should provide sufficient evidence of your qualifications until your parchment is available. Please note an interim version of your Academic Transcript can be downloaded by you via Self Service Banner at https://ssb8sso.uws.ac.uk without you having to contact the University.

24. What COVID restrictions will be in place at the physical ceremonies?
The University takes the safety and wellbeing of its students, staff and guests very seriously. We want everyone to feel safe and comfortable at the event and will be following all current COVID restrictions in place at the time of the events. If necessary, numbers at each graduation may be restricted and the use of face masks will be dictated in line with national guidelines at the time.

25. Cancellation / Liability
In the event that the graduation is cancelled for any reason, the University does not accept liability for direct or indirect loss or damages incurred as a result of the cancellation of the event. 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.
26. Where can I get more information about the Autumn 2022 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.

Any Graduation updates will be published on the graduation page of our website [here](#).

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

UWS Registry
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