

Pre-event information

Ticket Dispatch

- If you have asked for us to send you your tickets to a UK address, they have now been posted.
- If you are an international student who requested to pick up your tickets at the venue on the day or requested a fellow classmate collect them on your behalf, then we have already emailed you about this. You will be asked to **show your student/photo ID** before we hand over your ticket pack. Similarly, the nominated person collecting your ticket pack on your behalf **must bring their student/photo ID**; they will not be able to take your tickets without this.

Live-Streaming Options

As we have previously announced, we are relocating guests with tickets to **Solent Hall at the Bournemouth International Centre (BIC)** to allow for more space and ventilation within both venues and to reduce crowding. All graduation ceremonies will be live-streamed - below are the options for viewing:

- **Guests with tickets** will view the livestream in Solent Hall at the BIC. Only guests with tickets will be permitted entry. Guests will be seated and can watch the ceremony on a large screen and will be welcomed by AUB staff. Guests will be seated in a spatially distanced fashion. Solent Hall is on the ground floor and is wheelchair accessible.
- **Terrace Bistro** - This is a small, limited-capacity venue **available to those without tickets** to view the ceremonies at no cost, but entry is **first-come, first-serve** with limited seating available. We cannot guarantee entry or seating at this venue.
- Anywhere from around the globe - Anyone can watch the ceremonies live, in real-time, by visiting www.aub.ac.uk/graduation where the live-stream will be accessible at no cost. Watch from the comfort of your own home. Ceremonies will be recorded and posted to the same page for viewing a few weeks after Graduation.

Guest Tickets

Guest tickets include entry to both Solent Hall at the BIC and the Champagne Reception at the Beach Marquee (where you can enjoy a complimentary glass of Champagne and live entertainment), and your commemorative Graduation Programme.

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Gowns

Everyone should by now have hired their gown for Graduation. All gowns from our nominated supplier, E&R, are delivered to the venue for you to collect from the Pavilion Ballroom on the day of your ceremony. Please follow the safety advice in place on arrival. E&R staff cannot gown you personally this year but will be on hand to offer verbal assistance and guidance to ensure your robes are fitted correctly.

Photography

Photography is pre-booked through our nominated supplier Ede and Ravenscroft and by now you should have booked this through them directly if you wish to purchase a photography package. Photography will take place only after your ceremony, the studios will not be open beforehand. The photography studio is located at PDSW (signposted) and is an un-ticketed venue (i.e. guests do not need tickets to enter) and you can have a maximum of 6 people (including yourself) in your graduate photos.

Before the big day

- We encourage all attendees to [take a lateral flow test](#) before travelling to Graduation. This is an important step in helping to keep everyone safe.
- If you, your guests, or a member of your household tests positive or has experienced symptoms in the 14 days before your ceremony date, then you must not attend your ceremony.
- Graduands and guests travelling from abroad should also pay close attention to the changing [travel and border restrictions in the UK](#) and follow all rules in place for the red and amber countries listed.
- If you need to quarantine or self-isolate, then you must have completed this before your ceremony – you must not end it early to attend your ceremony.
- If you find that you or any of your guests are unable to attend, then **full ticket refunds** are available by emailing graduation@aub.ac.uk.

How we are keeping you safe

- We will make all reasonable efforts to reduce transmission risk where possible and ensure that Graduation is entirely compliant with any Government guidance on COVID-19 safety measures at that time. Please see the Covid letter that was included in your ticket pack for further details. Any further updates (based on upcoming Government announcements) will be posted to the [Graduation FAQ page](#).

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- We have relocated guests with tickets to view the ceremony via livestream from Solent Hall at the Bournemouth International Centre (BIC). Only graduands will be seated inside the Pavilion Theatre. This is to allow for both graduands and guests to be physically distanced inside both venues.
- Face coverings may be worn according to personal preference, unless the UK Government states they are compulsory to wear at large, indoor gatherings. Servers at the Champagne Reception must wear face coverings.
- We are keeping attendees outside for as much time as possible. This includes graduands queuing outside before they are let in in small groups to be gowned, and then back outside to be lined up alphabetically in their courses, before being led into the theatre to be seated prior to the ceremony starting. Doors to Solent Hall will open for guest seating 30 minutes before the scheduled ceremony start time.
- There will be hand sanitiser stations in all areas and we encourage you to use these regularly. We will also be cleaning all ceremony and celebratory areas and common touch points regularly throughout the day.
- Please follow the one-way systems in place at the venues and use the designated entry and exits as directed / signposted.
- On arrival, you will be asked to check in to each venue using the NHS Covid-19 Test and Trace app. Please download this onto your phone. Alternatively, we will have manual sign-in sheets for those who cannot use the app.
- We ask that you are respectful of all other graduands, guests and event staff. We are all here to help you celebrate your incredible achievements!

GRADUAND PROCEDURE ON THE DAY

This is for your information only, please rest assured you do not need to memorise these instructions! You will be guided throughout the entire procedure from start to finish on the day.

What to expect on arrival:

- Please arrive early. Due to physical distancing measures this year, we expect the gowning process to take longer than usual.
- As a reminder, if you are arriving to Bournemouth by car you will be able to park at any of the car parks located in the town centre (including one at the Bournemouth International Centre) - most of which are just a short walking distance away from the venue. Please note there is no parking available at the

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Pavilion Theatre.

- On arrival at the Pavilion Theatre, you are welcome to gather and meet with your friends briefly outside the main entrance and take photos in front of the fountain. There will be a stand with AUB memorabilia available for purchase and a refreshment cart where your guests may purchase refreshments while they wait till doors open at the Solent Hall for seating (30 minutes prior to ceremony start time). Alternatively, guests may arrive at the BIC early, there is a cafe where they may purchase refreshments while they wait.
- When you are ready for gowning, please cross the barrier marked 'Graduand and Academic Access Only' to join the queue for Graduand gowning (signposted). Once you enter this area, you may not exit again. There is a cloakroom available in the Pavilion, but we recommend leaving any valuables with your guests before joining the queue to be gowned.
- **Please be prepared to queue for a while outside.** Graduands will enter the gowning room in small groups at a time to reduce crowding. Before you enter the building, you'll be asked to scan the NHS Test & Trace QR code using the NHS Covid-19 app on your phone. Gowns will have pockets so you can stash your phone there and keep it with you.
- Once inside, you will be asked for your name at the door and then enter the Ballroom to be gowned. Please make sure you bring your E&R booking code (if you have one) given when hiring your gown. Staff will not physically assist you getting into your cap and gown this year but will give verbal instructions instead.
- Once gowned, you will have the chance to drop off any belongings at the cloakroom, use the washrooms, and grab a drink of water if needed, before heading outside again to a waiting area where you will meet with your course ushers.
- Your course usher will give you your name card and line you up in alphabetical order.
- Thirty (30) minutes before the ceremony begins, course ushers will lead you into the theatre, where you will be seated in a spatially distanced fashion.

During the ceremony:

- Your course usher will get you up in plenty of time to lead you over towards the stage.

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- You'll hand your name card to the name-caller.
- Then you'll cross the stage by course as your name is called.
- To minimise physical contact, **in lieu of a handshake this year you will be asked instead to pause midway across the stage, make eye contact and doff your cap** to University Principal and Vice-Chancellor Paul Gough as a formal gesture. Then continue to cross to the other side of the stage where you will go down the steps into the audience and be directed to a free seat (note this will be a different seat than that you were originally seated in).
- Please note that you will not be handed your scroll or certificate on stage at Graduation. 2020 graduands have already received theirs in the post, and 2021 graduands will receive theirs in the post after Graduation.

On conclusion of the ceremony:

- There will be a staggered departure from the theatre. Once the stage party has left the stage, Graduates will be invited to exit via the West Terrace, and on down the steps to the lower terraces.
- On exit, please follow the signs and staff directing you to the central meeting point (signposted) where Graduates and guests coming from the BIC will reconvene at the rear of the building.
- From there, you can follow the signs to the photography studio at PDSW to have your pre-booked photos taken and/or follow the staff directing you to walk to the Beach Marquee (approx. 10-minute walk) where the post-ceremony Champagne Reception takes place. Please note last entry is 15 min. before the end of the reception.

Accessibility

Graduands who have contacted us with accessibility requests for themselves or their guests have been communicated with separately with full details on venue access, seating, and accessible routes. If you have further questions, please get in touch with us directly at graduation@aub.ac.uk.

Further information and updates can be found on the [Graduation FAQ](#) page.

If you have any queries regarding Graduation, please consult the [Graduation FAQ](#) page first. Please understand we are currently experiencing a high volume of emails, but if your question has not been addressed on the FAQ page, please do contact us at graduation@aub.ac.uk and we will respond as soon as possible.

We look forward to seeing you all at Graduation!