

Relaxed Graduation - FAQs

Who is the relaxed graduation aimed at?

A Relaxed Graduation is aimed at any students or guests who may find larger graduation ceremonies overwhelming, loud or difficult to access for any reason. You may prefer the Relaxed Graduation ceremony if you experience social communication difficulties such as autism, social anxiety, mental health difficulties, or sensory processing difficulties. This list is not intended to be exhaustive. You will not be asked to share with the University why you have chosen to attend the Relaxed Graduation.

What is different about relaxed graduation compared to the other graduation ceremonies?

When you arrive on the day of the Relaxed Graduation ceremony, you will register with our staff team at Heritage Quay, rather than in the Sports Hall, where all other students will register. The staff will let you know about the facilities in the space.

The seating for the ceremony is around tables rather than in rows, and unlike the other ceremonies, where you sit with your cohort, you and your guests can sit together, with other students and their guests. In addition, the relaxed ceremony will not be School specific. You can remain seated during the ceremony, but if you prefer to stand up and move around, this is fine. We ask that you do this as quietly as you can and to move around at the back of the room so that it does not block the view of the ceremony for other people - thank you.

There will be a smaller procession of the University staff who are presiding over the ceremony through the room at the start of the ceremony.

Your name will be read aloud as part of the ceremony, and after the speeches you will be given the option to go to the front of the room to receive congratulations from the Chair of the Ceremony and have your photograph taken. You can choose whether you wish to shake hands with the Chair.

There will be no loud music at the event, but soft music may be playing at specific times. We will be asking the audience not to applaud, but to use a [British Sign Language gesture for applause](#) or to tap gently on the table.

Where will it take place?

The Relaxed Graduation will take place in Heritage Quay, Floor 3 of The Schwann Building ([Building number 7 on the campus map](#)). Heritage Quay is a smaller and quieter space away from the main thoroughfares through the University. Students will be able to do all the graduation activities in this area - such as pick up a gown, have your photograph taken etc. The space is fully accessible via a platform lift from the main entrance of the Schwann Building.

What do I wear?

You can wear any clothing you are comfortable in on the day of the Relaxed Graduation. You also have the choice about whether to wear a cap and gown or not.

What happens after the ceremony?

You and your guests will be invited to take some refreshments, which will either be served in the same venue or in a room nearby. At the same time, there will be an opportunity for you to have your photograph taken.

A small photography studio will be available where you and/or your guests can have their photograph taken, and if you did not go to the front of the room during the ceremony to have your photograph taken with the Chair, you can do this informally.

How do I register for a relaxed graduation?

If, after reading the information above, you decide that you would like to opt in to a relaxed graduation, complete the online registration via the link in the invitation email, which is for the main ceremony and, in addition, complete the opt in form. We will get back in touch with you after you have registered your place to confirm the exact date and time of the ceremony.

What happens if I change my mind?

If you decide you no longer wish to attend a relaxed ceremony, please email mygraduation@hud.ac.uk. We will be able to offer you attendance at one of our main ceremonies.

What support is available on the day?

A friendly staff team will be there on the day to answer any questions you have and to offer support and guidance before and during the ceremony.