

Arden University

Graduation 2pm Ceremony

Event details & frequently asked questions

Central Hall Westminster, London

3rd November 2026

ARDEN UNIVERSITY

Event timetable

Event	Where	Date and Time
Arden University Graduation ceremony	Central Hall Westminster, Storey's Gate, London, SW1H 9NH	3rd November 2026 2:00pm
Entrance	Side door of main building - Matthew Parker Street	12:15pm - 1:45pm
Arden University staff available for questions	Throughout the venue	All day
Cloakroom	Westminster Foyer Lower Ground Floor	All day
Register your arrival and collect your pre-purchased guest wristbands	Susanna Wesley Suite Lower Ground Floor	12:15pm - 1:45pm
Collect your pre-ordered academic dress	Aldersgate Room Lower Ground Floor	12:15pm - 1:45pm
Pre-paid official photography	Aldersgate Room Lower Ground Floor	12:15pm - 1:45pm
Refreshments available to purchase	Lecture Hall - Level 1 or Wesley's Cafe - Ground Floor	Before and after ceremony
Graduates to take their allocated seats	Great Hall Level 3	1:15pm - 2:00pm
Guests take seats	Great Hall gallery seating Level 4	1:15pm - 2:00pm
Ceremony: Academic procession begins	Great Hall Level 3	Promptly at 2:00pm
Ceremony closes	Great Hall Level 3	3:30pm
Alumni reception	Library and Lecture Hall Level 1	3:30pm - 4:30pm
Merchandise stand	Library and Lecture Hall Level 1	Before and after ceremony
Careers stand	Library and Lecture Hall Level 1	3:30pm - 4:30pm
Return academic robes	Library and Lecture Hall Level 1	By 4:20pm latest
Event concludes	Library and Lecture Hall Level 1	4:30pm

Frequently asked questions

What time should I arrive?

Please ensure you arrive promptly for registration. If you have pre-purchased official photography, you must arrive as soon as registration opens to allow enough time for your registration, ticket and gown collection, and official photography. Late arrival may mean you are unable to have your official photographs taken.

What happens when I arrive?

Graduates make your way to the registration area, this will be situated in the Susanna Wesley Suite/ Lower Ground Floor. There will be an attended cloakroom on Level 1 where you can leave your belongings. There are lifts to all levels and toilets are available on each floor. If you do require any special assistance, please let a member of the Graduation Team know as soon as possible and we will be happy to assist.

Wristband collection

All graduates must register on arrival and bring a valid form of ID. The registration and wristband collection desk will be located in the Susanna Wesley Suite on the Lower Ground Floor. At registration, you will receive your own wristband as well as wristbands for your guests. You and your guests must wear your wristbands at all times, as they are required for access to the seating areas. Entry to the ceremony room will not be permitted without a valid wristband. Please note that guest seating is unallocated.

Academic dress

Once you have registered you should proceed to collect your Academic Dress.
Graduation Attire will have your pre-ordered gown ready for collection in the Aldersgate Room/Lower Ground Floor.

Pre-paid official photography

Pre-ordered official photography will take place in the Aldersgate Room/Lower Ground Floor. Please ensure if you have pre-booked official photography that you arrive as soon as registrations opens.

Taking your seat

All graduates and guests are asked to take their seats at least 15 minutes before the start of the ceremony. Graduates and guests will not be permitted to enter the Great Hall once the ceremony has begun. Once seated, please remain in your seat for the duration of the ceremony.

Frequently asked questions

What if I am late for the ceremony?

Please make sure you are on time as you may not be able to graduate if you arrive late.

What happens during the ceremony?

Ushers will guide you to your allocated seat upon entry to the Great Hall. Staff will guide you out of your seats and up to the stage when it is your turn to graduate. After you have returned from the stage an usher will direct you back to your seat. Please do not change seats at any point as your name will not be announced in the correct order. No food or drink will be allowed in the Great Hall. Leaving early during the ceremony is strictly prohibited.

What happens at the Alumni Reception?

Following the ceremony, graduates and guests are invited to attend the Alumni Reception in the Library and Lecture Hall/Level 1. You will be provided with a ticket at registration to exchange for a complimentary drink whilst celebrating with your fellow graduates, guests, and Arden academics. There will be a merchandise stand where you will be able to purchase a variety of Arden-branded goods. There will also be a careers stand, where you will be able to chat with one of our experienced Careers Team members.

Taking photos outside in your gown after the ceremony?

You may go outside to take photos in your academic dress after the ceremony. However, please ensure you return to the building at least 20 minutes before your gown return time. Central Hall Westminster security will not allow graduates or guests to leave the building in academic dress within 20 minutes of the Alumni reception ending.

Where do I return my gown?

Drop off points for your academic robes will be in the Library and Lecture Hall/Level 1, and must be returned no later than 4.20pm.

We hope you have a wonderful graduation and we look forward to celebrating with you on the day!

For more information arden.ac.uk/graduation

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