

GRADUATION 2026 – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

These FAQs are divided into four sections:

1. Your ceremony

Where is Graduation 2026 taking place, and how long is my ceremony?

All ceremonies will be at the Sportspark on UEA (University of East Anglia) campus. All ceremonies will last approximately 90-100 minutes.

How much time do I need to allow before the ceremony?

You and your guests should arrive at the Sportspark from two hours before your ceremony start time. Please ensure that you have your ticket available for scanning at the entrance to the event.

To ensure the safety and enjoyment of all guests, security checks will be carried out at this event, including bag searches. Bags or items larger than A4 size (approximately 210mm × 297mm) are prohibited and we will be unable to store these items should you arrive with them.

Where possible, you should come together, particularly if you have pre-paid for your official photographs.

There will be refreshments available to purchase on arrival at the Sportspark and further details of the local food traders who will be there can be found in section 4 of these FAQs.

Doors to the hall will open 45 minutes before your ceremony starts and will close 15 minutes before the ceremony begins. Please note that except for bottled water, any food or drink purchased while you wait for your ceremony to begin cannot be taken into the ceremony hall. **Due to the nature of the event, we cannot guarantee entry if you arrive late.**

Do I need to pay for my tickets?

Graduating students do not pay for their own ticket. Guest ticket charges can be found in the [ticket terms and conditions](#)

Do children need tickets?

Children under the age of two can sit on a lap and do not need a ticket. Buggies and car seats must be left outside the ceremony hall. Children aged 2 years and older must sit in their own seat and have a ticket.

When will I receive my tickets?

Your tickets will be sent to your personal email address one week before your ceremony and can be forwarded to your guests. Please ensure that you check your junk/spam folders if you have not received your tickets one week before your ceremony.

All tickets will be scanned at the entry to the event. To avoid delays, please ensure you and your guests each have their correct tickets on arrival.

Can I buy tickets on the day?

No, you cannot buy tickets on the day. Tickets must be pre-purchased and will be sent to your registered email address one week prior to your ceremony.

How will you look after people with additional support needs?

The ceremony hall is accessible and includes spaces for wheelchair users or those who wish to transfer into one of the hall seats. We are aware that graduates and students and/or their guests may require additional support in terms of accessibility or disabilities (physical or hidden) to ensure everyone enjoys the day. We aim to ensure that all requests are accommodated.

As part of the registration process, graduates and students were asked to include this information for themselves and/or their guests. We have now contacted all those who completed this section of the process.

If you did not include this information on the registration form or are now aware that additional support is required, please email graduation@uea.ac.uk with details of the ceremony you are attending and the support you require.

Please note that if you do not advise us of any additional support arrangements prior to 30 June 2026, we may not be able to accommodate late or on the day requests.

Is there a dress code?

Graduation is a formal occasion, and usual wear under gowns is a suit and tie, or a dress, or skirt/trouser and shirt combination. Graduands are very welcome to wear national dress or other cultural dress and decoration, and members of the armed forces may wear the appropriate uniform.

You may want to wear a shirt/dress with buttons, as your hood can be attached to a button. However, you can still wear a hood without attaching it to your own clothes but may wish to bring safety pins to stop it slipping as you walk on stage.

Please ensure you wear appropriate footwear for walking up and down the ceremony stage ramp. Graduation day can include significant periods of standing and walking, and comfortable footwear will help you enjoy the day.

Jeans, hoodies, and tracksuits are not considered appropriate for the occasion.

Please note that any additional items brought into the ceremony hall (e.g., handbags, flowers, flags) will not be permitted on to the ceremony platform and must be left in your seat when you join your School procession to cross the stage.

What happens when I cross the stage?

You will be guided from your seat to the ceremony stage. When your Head of School calls out your name, you will walk across the stage and either shake hands, nod, bow or namaste with the Presiding Officer before returning to your seat for the rest of the ceremony.

To ensure respect for all the graduands, please remain in your allocated seat in the hall until the ceremony concludes. Please avoid talking during the ceremony and celebrate the success of all the graduates by applauding as they cross the stage.

After the ceremony finishes, you and your guests will be guided from your seats to the festival area.

Are animals permitted into the event?

Registered guide dogs, assistance dogs and therapy animals are welcome at each ceremony on the production of a recognized Assistance ID Card or assistance harness.

If you did not include this information on your registration form, please email graduation@uea.ac.uk with the details of the ceremony you are attending along with the support animal you are bringing.

We are unable to accept any other animals, and they will be denied entry to the event.

We have no welfare facilities or areas to house/store animals that have been refused entry.

Will the ceremony be live streamed?

Yes, your ceremony will be live streamed. Further details will be published on our website [Graduation - About \(uea.ac.uk\)](#) nearer the event.

2. Parking and accommodation

Where can I park?

We have limited onsite accessible parking available which will be offered to Blue Badge holders, but it is a short walk from the venue. Those with mobility issues are encouraged to use the Park and Ride service that has a temporary accessible bus stop immediately outside the venue.

All other cars must be parked at the Costessey Park & Ride site (NR9 3LX – A1074/A47 – What3Words location: **exclusive.linguists.inhaled**)

A frequent bus service from the Park & Ride site to the Sportspark will operate throughout the day. This service will be free of charge, and the full timetable will also be published on our [website](#) closer to the event.

We will be unable to accommodate those who arrive on the day without having notified us that an accessible parking space is required. This should have been noted as part of the registration process but if you are now aware that one is required and did not tell us when you registered email graduation@uea.ac.uk with details of the ceremony you are attending.

Accessible parking will also be available at the Park & Ride site, as well as an accessible toilet. There will be a designated drop-off point outside the venue for those arriving by taxi. Guests with additional support requirements may also be dropped off at this point.

Is there any accommodation on campus?

Graduation guests may wish to stay at Broadview Hotel, our on-campus guest accommodation. Broadview Hotel offers comfortable, affordable, en-suite rooms, right in the heart of campus in Nelson Court. For further information and to check availability and book online please visit [Broadview Hotel Visitor Accommodation](#)

3. Gown and Photography

How do I order my gown and my official photograph?

Gown hire and photography booking details have been sent to your registered email address. Photography sessions are not time specific, although it is advisable to go to the photography area immediately after you have picked up your gown as they are in the same location.

Photography sessions can be paid for on the day but are subject to availability.

Please direct all queries relating to gown and photography orders to our official gown and photography supplier, [Ede & Ravenscroft](#).

4. After the Ceremony

Are there any activities after the ceremony?

Yes. There will be a post-ceremony festival celebration area as you exit the ceremony hall with food stalls by local suppliers, a bar and live music. You will be able to relax here with your family and friends before continuing your journey.

[The Fleet](#) will play a 60-minute set, starting 30 minutes after your ceremony has finished.

The following local food traders have confirmed:

[Crabb & Fox](#) - Bar

[Florenco's Coffee](#) - Coffee

[Otis Breading](#) – Sourdough Toasties

[Crabb & Fox](#) - Pizza

[Amor](#) - Ice-Cream and Waffles

[Amor](#) - Fried Chicken & Halloumi

[Phat Khao](#) – Thai Street Food

Am I able to visit other areas of campus in my gown?

Yes. You can leave the event in your gown for photo opportunities around campus. However, your gown must be returned to the gown return point before you depart campus. The gown return point will close at the same time the site closes.

If visiting campus, you may wish to celebrate at the [Modern Life Café](#) located within the Sainsbury Centre. To book your table please email mlc.reservations@uea.ac.uk.

[The Sainsbury Centre](#) - the world class art museum on campus - will be open Tuesday to Friday of Graduation Week.

Can I re-enter the Festival area if I visit other areas of campus?

No, you and your guests will not be able to re-enter the Festival area or any other area of the Sportspark after you leave the event. Your entry ticket is single use only.

What time does the site close?

If you are attending the 3pm ceremony on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday the site will close at 6.30pm.

If you are attending the 6pm ceremony on Wednesday, the site will close at 8.45pm.