



ST CROSS COLLEGE

ACADEMIC DRESS - MATRICULATION

It is very important to adhere to the academic dress code. Gowns and sub fusc will be checked by college staff prior to matriculands leaving college for the ceremony. Any matriculand not fulfilling the requirements of the academic dress code will be strongly advised not to leave for the Sheldonian with the procession.

These checks are conducted to avoid a matriculand being denied entry to the Sheldonian by the Proctors at the ceremony. This can and will happen if the requirements for academic dress are not met. We ask that staff are treated respectfully when discussing any dress code issues. Academic dress code checks are for the benefit of the matriculand and to avoid a disappointing outcome prior to your ceremony.

Please pay particular attention to items such as footwear, shirt/blouses etc. This must be strictly adhered to.

There are two elements to your academic dress:

- 1). Gown – plus mortar board or soft cap
- 2). Sub fusc – the black/white clothes you wear underneath your gown

You will need to have both these elements and these are explained below

GOWN

You will need the Advanced Student Gown, also known as the Postgraduate Gown
See a photo of the Advanced Student Gown [here](#)

You will need your Advanced Student Gown for matriculation, graduation, formal dinners, examinations and any other university formal occasion which requires academic dress. Therefore, most students decide to purchase a gown and mortar board to use for the duration of their time in Oxford

MORTAR BOARD or SOFT CAP

You will also need a mortar board. See a photo of a mortar board [here](#)

Ladies have the option of a soft cap if preferred. See a photo of a soft cap [here](#)

WHERE CAN I PURCHASE MY GOWN?

You can purchase your gown and mortar board or soft cap from these shops in Oxford:

Walters – Turl Street

Shepherd & Woodward – High Street

Ede & Ravenscroft – High Street

These shops also stock sub fusc accessories such as bow ties, black ribbons (see below)

SUB FUSC

Sub Fusc is a term for all the clothing and accessories you wear under your gown. You will need to wear the following:

ONE OF THESE:

Plain black suit with plain black socks

or

Plain black trousers with plain black socks

or

Plain black skirt with plain black tights

PLUS BOTH OF THESE:

Plain black shoes

and

Plain white, collared, long-sleeved shirt or blouse

PLUS ONE OF THESE:

White bow tie

or

Black bow tie

or

Black full-length tie

or

Black ribbon tied in a bow (ladies)

Here are some important instructions about subfusc requirements:

Trousers, skirts and jackets must be plain black

Not permitted: Dark grey, dark blue, patterns, checks, pinstripes

Socks must be plain black and long enough to cover any bare leg

Tights must be plain black and of sufficient thickness/denier

Not permitted: Trainer socks, short ankle socks, patterns, colours, very sheer tights. It is not permitted to have any ankle/leg skin showing at all

Shoes must be plain black. Loafers with black tassels are permitted

Not permitted: Boots, trainers, Doc Martens, coloured patterns, metal buckles, studs, sparkly buttons, pale soles showing at side of shoe

Shirt or blouse must be plain white, long-sleeved, proper collar, pale buttons

Not permitted: Cream or off-white colours, patterned, printed, low neckline, frills, lace, short sleeved

Jewellery must only be very discrete and minimal in plain gold or silver

Not permitted: Large jewellery, coloured earrings, lapel pins

If you wear a **head dress/scarf** for religious reasons, this must be black

Not permitted: Cream or coloured scarf

NOTES

St Cross does not carry any spare gowns or accessories

I would advise all matriculands to visit the shop in person to discuss your needs. They are experts and really helpful!

It is your responsibility to arrive in college with the correct academic dress

QUESTIONS?

Contact Sasha: academic.secretary@stx.ox.ac.uk or tel 01865 278458