

Emmanuel College

Arrangements for taking degrees

Congratulations: the hard labour of your degree is over. Proceeding to its official award involves a ceremony which takes place in the Senate House. Please take heed of the following notes, which outline the procedure.

The Congregation

Congregations are held in the Senate House on a number of Saturdays throughout the year. Usually they begin at 2.00 pm, although (depending on numbers) Emmanuel's turn may not come until mid-afternoon.

You are warmly invited to take lunch on the day in College. You may bring two guests free of charge - others are subject to a charge, and the total number of guests should not exceed three. We meet in the Parlour or the Old Library at 12.30pm for drinks and you should have your ceremonial attire all ready then, if not upon you. A brief rehearsal will happen either before or after lunch. Guests will need tickets to gain admission to the Senate House (a maximum of 3 guests). If you have not collected these already, they should be waiting for you at the Porters' Lodge.

Dress

A number of officials are employed in the Senate House to enforce a strict dress code. Your Praelector is penalized for any misdemeanours of appearance, so would be glad of general obedience to the following codes:

Men: Dinner jacket suit; plain white shirt; white bow tie and bands; black shoes and black socks; the gown and the hood of the highest degree you have previously received from the University; or if holding no previous Cambridge degree, the gown appropriate to your status, and the hood of the degree to which you are proceeding.

Women Plain black dress, or black suit (could be a trouser suit) or black skirt and plain shirt (white or black), with black or white cardigan if required, and sleeves must be long; black shoes and dark or neutral tights or stockings; the gown and hood of the highest degree you have previously received from the University; or, if holding no previous Cambridge degree, the gown appropriate to your status, and the hood of the degree to which you are proceeding.

Degrees by proxy

If you do not wish to take part in a ceremony, you can do so by proxy, at any of the Congregations on the enclosed list.

Accommodation

The College has limited facilities to accommodate you if necessary: a charge of £25.30 per night is made for bed and breakfast.

Notification

It is important that you make your booking for a Congregation in good time, and certainly no later than two weeks before the date of the Congregation at which you wish to take your degree. Please do so using the enclosed form. Correspondence and any queries should be directed to Mrs Ann Shannon (ams34@cam.ac.uk) at the College Office or to me (srw12@cam.ac.uk).

Stephen Watson
Praelector