

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN
GRADUATION CEREMONY





WELCOME TO THIS GRADUATION CEREMONY.



The University of Aberdeen is one of Scotland's great institutions. With over 500 years of history and achievement behind us, we are one of the oldest universities in the United Kingdom.

Since our earliest days, we have constantly pursued excellence in learning, building on the strengths of our region and taking the results to the world beyond. Today, with over 14,500 students and 3,300 staff, Aberdeen is a university internationally renowned for the quality of its teaching and research, serving one of the most dynamic regions in northern Europe.

Today is a special day. For our graduands it is a celebration of the culmination of one or more years of study. We hope it will be an occasion that you will remember fondly for the rest of your lives.

It is also an important day for the parents, partners, family and friends of the graduands. The achievement of a degree is one that is seldom managed without the support of those nearest to us. Today is a celebration which you are very much part of too.

We are also united today by a shared sense of pride in achievement. The University is proud of its graduands and we hope you are equally proud to be joining a community of alumni that is over 500 years old. We hope you will take confidence from that long history which shows Aberdeen graduates have gone on to great success in life. We also hope you will remember your time here as being some of the happiest years of your life.

On behalf of everyone at the University, I hope you enjoy today and I wish you every success for the future.

Professor Ian Diamond FBA FRSE AcSS
Principal and Vice-Chancellor

A DAY OF CELEBRATION
UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN





MUSIC HAS ALWAYS BEEN AN ESSENTIAL FEATURE OF THE UNIVERSITY'S CULTURAL LIFE. **GAUDEAMUS IGITUR**, A MEDIEVAL STUDENT SONG FROM GERMANY, IS SUNG AT EVERY ABERDEEN GRADUATION CEREMONY:



Gaudeamus Igitur

Gaudeamus igitur, juvenes dum sumus:
Gaudeamus igitur, juvenes dum sumus:
Post jucundam juventutem,
Post molestam senectutem,
Nos habebit humus, nos habebit humus.
Vita nostra brevis est, brevi finietur:
Vita nostra brevis est, brevi finietur:
Venit mors velociter, rapit nos atrociter,
Nemini parcetur, nemini parcetur.
Vivat Academia, vivant Professores:
Vivat Academia, vivant Professores:
Vivat membrum quodlibet,
Vivat membra quaelibet,
Semper sint in flore, semper sint in flore.

Translation

Let us therefore rejoice, while we are young:
After the joys of youth,
After the troubles of old age,
The earth will have us.
Our life is short, it will shortly be finished:
Death comes quickly, seizes us savagely,
Nobody will be spared.
Long live Academe, long live those who teach:
Long live each member,
Long live all the members,
May they always flourish.

The Graduands' Procession

Around fifteen minutes before the ceremony formally begins, a Sacrist bearing the gold casket containing the University's Freedom Scroll, awarded as part of the Freedom of the City of Aberdeen in 1995, leads the graduands into the Hall. Next come the promoters, senior members of the academic staff who will call the individual graduands for the conferral of their degree. The audience should remain seated while the graduands enter the Hall and take their seats.

Civic and Academic Processions

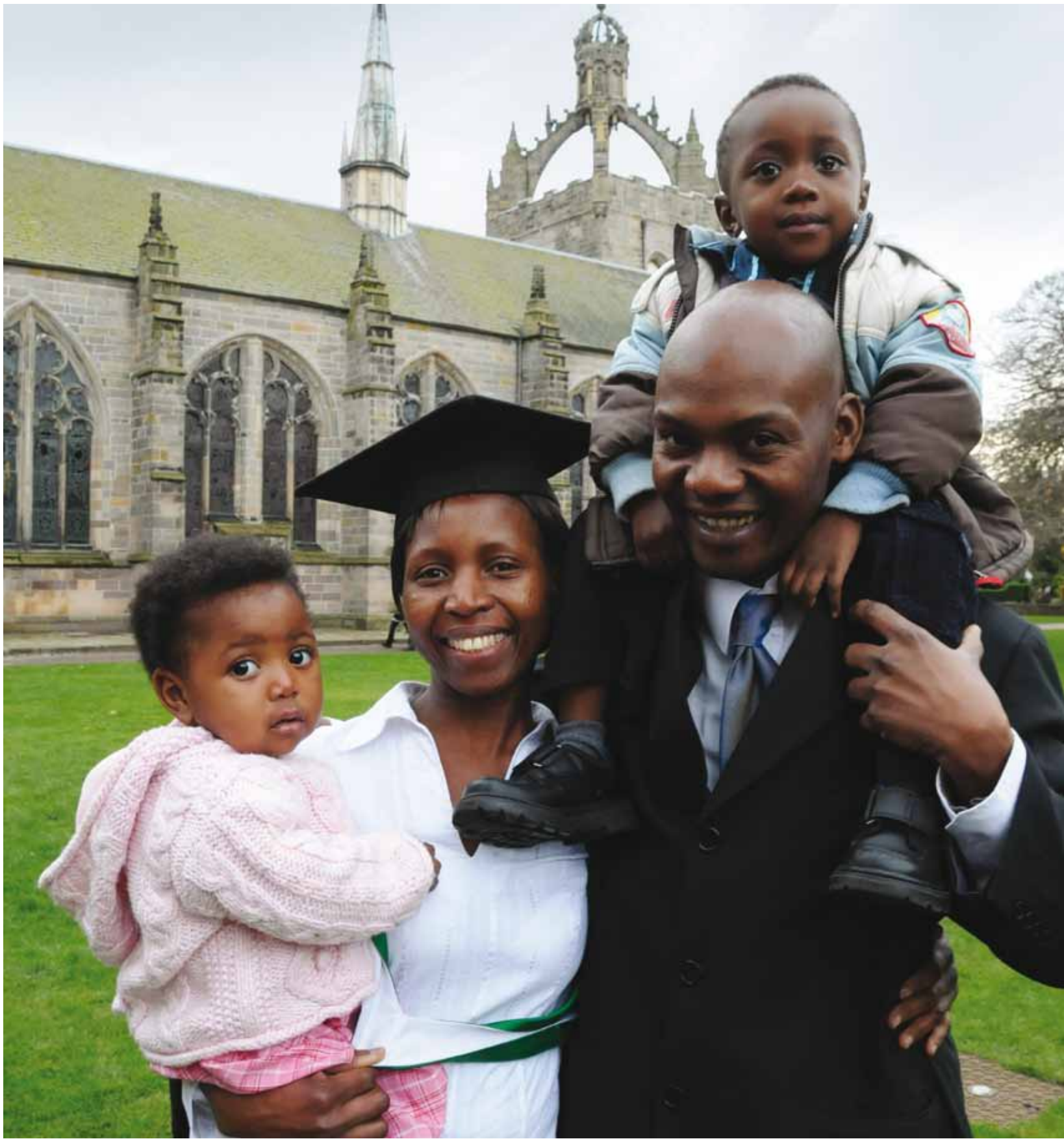
The audience will be asked to stand as the civic and academic processions enter the Hall. The civic procession has representatives of the civic community, which may include the Lord Provost of the City of Aberdeen, representatives of the City Council and of such other bodies as the Guildry, the Seven Incorporated Trades, the Chamber of Commerce and the Judiciary.

The audience will sing *Gaudeamus Igitur* as the academic procession enters the Hall led by two Sacrists carrying the ancient maces of King's and Marischal colleges.

The presiding officer is last in the procession and is either the Chancellor, as ceremonial head of the University, or the Vice-Chancellor, who presides in the Chancellor's absence and is generally known in Scotland as the Principal and is executive head of the University. The Chancellor wears a gown decorated with gold. When the Chancellor and Principal are both present, the Principal usually wears a purple ceremonial gown.

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Prayer of Thanksgiving

The prayer begins in Latin and is followed by a brief prayer in English.

Veni Sancte Spiritus, reple tuorum corda
fidelium et tui amoris in eis ignem accende:
qui per diversitatem linguarum cunctarum
gentes in unitate fidei congregasti.

Translation

Come Holy Spirit
Fill the hearts of your faithful,
and kindle in them the fire of your love:
you who, in spite of differences in language,
have gathered the nations in the unity of faith.

God Save The Queen

God save our gracious Queen,
Long live our noble Queen,
God save The Queen.
Send her victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us:
God save the Queen.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

The audience will remain standing until the processions have reached their places, and while the Chaplain to the University says the opening prayer.

Conferral of Degrees

All degrees are conferred in Latin, consistent with the traditions of a 500-year-old university. Though the precise formula for each degree varies, the promoter seeks permission from the Chancellor or Vice-Chancellor, and from all the doctors and masters of the University, to present the various candidates for the conferral of their degree.

Permission is granted on behalf of the *Senatus* and the names of the individual graduands are called. To signify the conferral, the head of each graduand is touched with a small ornate cap and a Sacrist then places over their head the academic hood appropriate to the degree, or helps to gown a doctoral graduate. The hoods, lined in different colours to identify the various degrees, lend the ceremony its distinctive colour, and are worn with the gown only after graduating.

Music

During the ceremony there will normally be two musical interludes, when staff and students of the University perform both classical and Scottish traditional pieces. The music for this ceremony is inside the back cover of this commemorative programme.

Address to Graduates

After all the degrees have been conferred, the Chancellor or Vice-Chancellor will either himself deliver an address to the graduates or will call upon another senior member of the University or an honorary graduate to do so.

National Anthem

At the end of the address the national anthem will be announced and the audience will be asked to stand.

Benediction and Processions

Following the national anthem, the audience will remain standing while the Chaplain to the University pronounces the benediction and the academic, civic and graduate processions leave the Hall. The inclusion of the new graduates in these processions symbolises their membership of the global University of Aberdeen community.

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ABERDEEN ALUMNI LIVE IN
150 COUNTRIES AROUND
THE WORLD WITH A
DIVERSITY OF SKILLS AND
SUCCESSSES THAT MAKE THEM
ONE OF THE UNIVERSITY'S
MOST POWERFUL AND HIGH
PROFILE ASSETS.



The University Coat-of-Arms

The arms of the University of Aberdeen, recorded in 1888, contains in its quarters references to Old Aberdeen and learning, to Earl Marischal Keith, founder of Marischal College, and Bishop William Elphinstone, founder of King's College. The final quarter, bottom right, symbolises the City of Aberdeen. This shield forms the core of the University's corporate identity.

The full coat-of-arms incorporating crest, motto and supporters is reserved for ceremonial occasions.

The motto *Initium Sapientiae Timor Domini* (Fear of the Lord is the Beginning of Wisdom) is taken from Psalm 111:10. The crest and leopard-and-hart supporters were granted in 1995 to celebrate the Quincentenary of the University.

The Elphinstone Hall

Elphinstone Hall lies at the heart of the King's College campus, a perfect and popular setting for a wide variety of ceremonies, dinners, exhibitions, weddings and other large functions.

The present Hall and associated cloisters were designed and built by A Marshall Mackenzie in 1931, replacing Bishop Elphinstone's original Great Hall which was demolished in 1870.

Externally, the Hall and cloisters are in perfect harmony with the Chapel and the medieval charm of Old Aberdeen, while internally the spacious and dignified Hall replicates the late medieval Scottish Gothic style, with oak floor and wall panelling and crowned by a magnificent hammer-beam ceiling in pitch pine.

The University has a large collection of works of art, collected throughout the past five centuries. Many of them depict former professors, benefactors and other notables, of which a small selection lines the walls of the Elphinstone Hall. The adjacent Linklater Rooms houses a collection of works by 20th century Scottish artists, building on an original bequest by Eric Linklater of works by the Scottish Colourists. A recent initiative has seen the installation of works by contemporary artists in a variety of locations on campus, of which *Youth with Split Apple* by Kenny Hunter can be seen from the main door of Elphinstone Hall.

A Global Community

The University is proud of the achievements of its 65,000-strong alumni community. Generations of graduates have volunteered time and expertise to their *Alma Mater*, creating an international network of goodwill ambassadors. Alumni are also among our most generous and enthusiastic donors: from the construction of new facilities in healthcare, culture, medical research and sport, the preservation of our historic King's College campus as well as a range of student scholarship programmes, alumni continue to support the University well after graduation.

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