

Graduation Guide

April 2026



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Starting Time and Duration of Ceremony

- The ceremony will commence punctually as per programme time.
- All guests are requested to be seated at least 60 minutes before the start of the ceremony.
- Graduands must please take into consideration the morning traffic, time required to collect their academic dress and graduate and guest seating tickets.
- Each ceremony lasts approximately two hours and guests must remain seated during the entire ceremony - walking around is strictly prohibited.

CANDIDATES WHO ARRIVE LATE RUN THE RISK OF NOT GRADUATING

Dress Code for Graduating Candidates

The graduation ceremony is a formal occasion and you are requested to dress formally or in traditional wear.

- Formal wear is acceptable, informal wear is not acceptable.
- The correct protocol is to wear only the hood of your highest qualification and thus not to wear more than the one you are to receive.
- Mortarboards/caps may only be placed on heads once candidates leave the stage.



Academic Dress

- All candidates must attend the ceremony in prescribed academic dress which must be worn until you leave the hall.
- Purchase/hire forms have been included. Messrs T Birch & Co., Makhanda and their subsidiary, Croft, Magill & Watson (Pty) Ltd, are the only officially appointed academic dress suppliers for the University.
- Satisfactory proof of identity must be produced in order to purchase academic dress. The accompanying letter may be used for this purpose.

At the end of this document is an extract from the General Prospectus regarding the description of academic dress for graduates of the University in the various qualifications.



NB: All candidates must collect or arrange for collection of their academic dress from Croft, Magill & Watson at the relevant campus/venue as indicated on the graduation website. Collection may take place prior to graduation on the dates specified on the enclosed documents from Croft, Magill & Watson, or on the day of the ceremony. Should you collect on the day of graduation, you must report at least two hours before the start of the ceremony.



Online Services

In an effort to streamline our processes, web tools have been developed for the benefit of graduating candidates. Graduating candidates are now able to access and submit important information online. The web address is <https://webapps.mandela.ac.za/graduationdashboard>. On this site, you will be able to access information as well as forms to confirm whether you will attend the ceremony order academic dress, and order official photographs.

Video Streaming of Ceremony

Should you have family and friends who cannot attend the graduation ceremony and would like to see you graduate, they can go to: <https://www.youtube.com/c/NelsonMandelaUniversity> to view the live feed.

Please visit this site before graduation day to ensure you have the correct version of the required media player on your PC/device.

Graduate Seating Cards

Graduate seating cards will be placed on the seats that have been allocated to the graduates. Your seat number will be published at the entrance.

Entry Tickets

George ceremony tickets will be accessible from **25 March 2026**. Gqeberha ceremony tickets will be accessible from **1 April 2026**. Ticketing information will be sent directly to you in due course. If challenges are encountered with downloading or printing entry tickets, **ONLY** the graduate should report to the allocated ticket queries station.

Guests for Graduates

A maximum of **four guests are permitted for each graduate**. A maximum of **five guests are permitted for doctoral recipients**. Guests require a ticket to be admitted to the hall.

Guests or Graduates with Special Needs

Staff of Campus Health Services will be on stand-by at the graduation ceremony should assistance be needed. Please contact Sr Althea Hawkins on 041 504 1149 well in advance to make prior arrangements. For special seating arrangements, please contact Mrs Monalisa Allen by e-mail: monalisa.allen@mandela.ac.za.

Procedure During the Presentation of Qualifications

(This procedure will also be printed on the back of your name card)

- Staff members will direct you to the stage area. Staff from the Faculty Academic Administration section will control proceedings in this area and will assist you in lining up in the correct way.
- Move onto the stage individually with your hood draped over your left arm. Here again, staff from the Faculty Academic Administration section will guide you.
- After the Executive Dean of the Faculty reads your name, please proceed across the stage to the Chancellor/Vice-Chancellor and kneel on the footstool, facing the Chancellor/Vice-Chancellor who will cap you.
- Proceed to the Registrar. Turn towards the congregation once the hood has been removed from your arm.
- The hood will be placed around your neck. A photograph will be taken at this stage.
- Leave the stage and place your mortarboard/cap on your head.
- Follow the arrows to the station where you will collect your certificate. Hand your name card to the staff member on duty who will then hand over your certificate to you.
- Return to your seat. **Please do not leave the hall during the ceremony.**
- Certificates will only be issued to the graduate and not to a third party.

Photographs

The official photographer for the Nelson Mandela University graduation ceremony is Gordon Harris Photographic. Photographs will be taken of every graduate as he or she is being presented by the Executive Dean of the Faculty and when being hooded by the Registrar. A demarcated area will be used to take family photographs, please follow directional signage. Please refer to the enclosed photograph order form.

NOTE: NO OTHER PHOTOGRAPHERS WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE HALL



NB: THE TAKING OF ALL PHOTOGRAPHS (INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE HALL) IS A PRIVATE TRANSACTION BETWEEN EACH CANDIDATE AND THE PHOTOGRAPHER CONCERNED. THE UNIVERSITY ACCEPTS NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE QUALITY OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS.

Access to University Grounds

PLEASE NOTE: People attending the Gqeberha ceremonies should preferably make use of the Marine Drive entrance to and from the Madibaz Indoor Centre.

Parking

Parking will be allocated in a demarcated area. Please follow the directional signage.

Change of Address for Courier Delivery of Printed Certificate

Please note that the street address completed on the documentation to receive your certificate, is only for the delivery of certificates. Please provide a physical street address, should you graduate in absentia and prefer your certificate to be couriered to you. Should you want to change your address permanently on our records, please e-mail: studentrecords@mandela.ac.za.

Certificates: Download/Collection/Courier

Web certificates may be accessed after each ceremony. Please refer to the certificate guide for detailed information on how to access your secure qualification certificate.

Candidates who are unable to attend graduation must please indicate this on the link provided on the graduation page. You must please indicate whether you will be attending or not attending and whether the certificate must be couriered to you or whether you will collect it in person.

Should you choose to have your certificate couriered to you, please ensure that the proof of payment of the administration/courier fee (**R300**) is attached/uploaded to the site. The account details are as follows:

	BANK:	Standard Bank
	BRANCH:	Stanley Street, Gqeberha
	BRANCH CODE:	050417
	ACCOUNT NAME:	Nelson Mandela University Main
	ACCOUNT NO.:	08 026 3011
	REFERENCE:	BG + student number

- Please ensure that the fee has been paid before you reply online.
- The address that you supply must be a **street address** not a PO Box.
- If collected in person, there is no fee to be paid

Alumni Association

Upon your graduation at Nelson Mandela University for a certificate, diploma or degree you become an alumnus of the University and a member of the Nelson Mandela Alumni Association.

Duplicate Certificates

It is the candidate's responsibility to safeguard his or her certificate. A duplicate diploma/degree certificate may be issued in the following cases:

- 1** If the original certificate has been damaged, the replacement cost is **R550**. The damaged certificate must be returned.
- 2** If the original certificate is completely lost, the replacement cost is **R550** and the graduate must submit a satisfactory sworn statement that the certificate has been lost, describing the circumstances leading to its loss. In addition, the graduate must undertake to return the duplicate should the original be recovered (**without the right to reclaim the R550**).
- 3** In both cases the word "Duplicate" will appear on the duplicate certificate.



Ceremony Protocol

(Do's and Dont's during the Graduation Ceremony).

Graduation is a dignified occasion and members of the congregation are required to respect the dignity of the event. While we believe there should be joy and exuberance, we request that cheering and ululating be kept to a minimum, respecting fellow congregants.

- Please note that you may invite a maximum of **FOUR GUESTS** for graduates and **FIVE GUESTS** for doctoral graduates to accompany you to the graduation ceremony (**NO CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF SIX ARE ALLOWED**).
- No food or drink will be allowed in the graduation ceremony venue – we regret that the University does not serve any refreshments to the graduates and their guests after the ceremonies.
- Four guest tickets are allocated to graduates up to the level of a Masters degree and five guest tickets are allocated for Doctoral graduates.
- Candidates and guests who are suspected of being under the influence of alcohol or any other narcotic substance will be refused entrance to the graduation ceremony venue.
- No weapons allowed. No vuvuzelas, whistles, or similar objects will be allowed in the venue as the use of these objects is disruptive to the proceedings (these objects will be confiscated and not returned).
- **Candidates and guests are required to remain seated throughout the proceedings and not to wander about.** They are not permitted to leave the hall until the congregation has been dissolved and the academic procession has left the stage.

Graduation Attire

Doctor's Degrees		Postgraduate Diplomas	
Gown:	Cardinal red gown with long pointed sleeves pleated up with blue cord and button and lined with blue satin. Facings 125mm wide and collar in blue.	Gown:	Black gown, long pointed sleeves pleated up with blue twisted double cord and button. Similar cord detail on middle back of buggy.
Hood:	Full shape hood in cardinal red polyester cashmere lined with faculty colour satin and edged around the cowl with 25mm Blue, 15mm Faculty colour ribbon, 15mm Blue and 25mm Faculty colour ribbon. 50mm wide straight neckband edged on bottom with 15mm faculty colour, 25mm University ribbon in centre and edged on top with 15mm Blue.	Hood:	Blue simple shape hood lined University blue satin. 50mm straight neckband with 15mm faculty ribbon on top and bottom edge of neckband and 25mm University Ribbon in centre. Cowl edged around outside with 75mm Faculty colour ribbon.
Cap:	Round doctor's bonnet in black velvet with faculty colour cord and tassel.	Cap:	Black mortarboard with blue tassel.
Master's Degrees		Postgraduate Certificate	
Gown:	Black gown, long pointed sleeves pleated up with blue twisted double cord and button. Similar cord detail on middle back of buggy.	Gown:	Black gown, long pointed sleeves pleated up with blue twisted double cord and button. Similar cord detail on middle back of buggy.
Hood:	Full shape University blue hood lined faculty colour satin and edged around the outside of the cowl with three times 15mm Faculty colour ribbons spaced 5mm apart. 50mm wide straight neckband with 25mm University ribbon in centre and 15mm Faculty colour ribbon on top and bottom edge.	Hood:	Blue simple shape hood lined University blue satin. 50mm wide straight neckband edged on top with 15mm faculty colour, 25mm University ribbon in centre and edged on bottom with 15mm Blue. Cowl edged around outside with 75mm Faculty colour ribbon.
MBCHB Hood:	Blue simple shape hood lined with Faculty colour satin and edged inside with 50mm University blue satin. 50mm wide straight neckband with 25mm University ribbon in centre and 15mm Faculty colour ribbon on top and bottom edge. Cowl edged around outside with two 25mm Faculty colour ribbons spaced 15mm apart. Top edge of hood is corded with university blue lacing cord.		
Cap:	Black mortarboard with blue tassel.	Cap:	Black mortarboard with blue tassel.

Bachelor Honours Degrees		4 Year Bachelor's Degrees (including Bachelor of Technology degrees)	
Gown:	Black gown, long pointed sleeves pleated up with blue twisted double cord and button. Similar cord detail on middle back of buggy.	Gown:	Black gown, long pointed sleeves pleated up with blue twisted double cord and button. Similar cord detail on middle back of buggy.
Hood:	Blue simple shape hood lined with University Blue satin. 50mm wide straight neckband with 25mm University ribbon in centre and 15mm Faculty colour ribbon on top and bottom edge. Cowl edged around outside with two 25mm Faculty colour ribbons spaced 15mm apart.	Hood:	Blue simple shape hood lined with University Blue satin. 50mm wide straight neckband with 25mm University ribbon in centre and 15mm Faculty colour ribbon on top and bottom edge. Both 15mm ribbons run through cowl on the outside too.
Cap:	Black mortarboard with blue tassel.	Cap:	Black mortarboard with blue tassel.
Advanced Diploma		3 Year Bachelor's Degrees	
Gown:	Black gown, long pointed sleeves pleated up with blue twisted double cord and button. Similar cord detail on middle back of buggy.	Gown:	Black gown, long pointed sleeves pleated up with blue twisted double cord and button. Similar cord detail on middle back of buggy.
Hood:	Blue simple shape hood lined with University Blue satin. 50mm wide straight neckband with 25mm University ribbon in centre and 15mm Faculty colour ribbon on top and bottom edge.	Hood:	Blue simple shape hood lined with University blue satin. 50mm wide straight neckband edged on top with 15mm faculty colour ribbon, 25mm university ribbon in centre and edged on bottom with 15mm Blue. Cowl edged around outside with 15mm Faculty colour ribbon.
Cap:	Black mortarboard with blue tassel.	Cap:	Black mortarboard with blue tassel.
Diploma		Certificate	
Gown:	Black gown, long pointed sleeves pleated up with blue twisted double cord and button. Similar cord detail on middle back of buggy.	Gown:	Black gown, long pointed sleeves pleated up with blue twisted double cord and button. Similar cord detail on middle back of buggy.
Hood:	Blue simple shape hood. 50mm wide straight neckband edged on top with 15mm faculty colour ribbon, 25mm university ribbon in centre and edged on bottom with 15mm Blue.	Hood:	Blue V-Shaped Collar with 25mm Faculty colour ribbon edged on top and 25mm University ribbon in centre.
Cap:	Black mortarboard with blue tassel.		

Messrs T Birch & Co (Pty) Ltd and their subsidiary, Croft, Magill & Watson (Pty) Ltd, have been appointed as official academic dress suppliers to the University and as contracted suppliers of choice to candidates for graduation academic attire.

Qualification Hoods

As part of the ongoing Transformation of Graduation Initiative, the academic hoods for all qualifications have been redesigned to recognise and celebrate every graduate. This transformation contributes to a more inclusive, culturally affirming graduation atmosphere that proudly represents the values and identity of the institution. The new designs align with the University's brand identity by incorporating its primary colours alongside faculty-specific colours. To honour both institutional heritage and diversity, it embraces a decolonial African perspective, reflecting the rich heritage and diverse mix of cultures within the University community. The redesigned hoods highlight meaningful cultural elements, enhancing their aesthetic appeal while reinforcing the University's vision of positioning itself as a leading African institution.



Faculty of Business and Economic Sciences



Faculty of Education



Faculty of Humanities



Faculty of Health Sciences



Faculty of Science



Faculty of Engineering, The Built Environment and Technology



Faculty of Law

Faculty Colours

BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC SCIENCES Fuchsia BCC 199 / Pantone 228 u	EDUCATION Tangerine Orange BCC 55/ Pantone 144 u	HUMANITIES Primrose Yellow BCC 111 / Pantone 115 u	HEALTH SCIENCES Apple Green BCC 22/ Pantone 390 u	SCIENCE Beetle Green BCC 24/ Pantone 355 u	ENGINEERING, THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND TECHNOLOGY Calamine Blue BCC 163/ Pantone 297 u	LAW Adonis Blue BCC 85/ Pantone 659 u
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Accommodation

Should you require accommodation in the Gqeberha area please make your own arrangements before travelling to Gqeberha. You may use the Accommodation Call Centre of the Nelson Mandela Bay Tourism office which offers a free service:

Main office: **Tel: 041 582 2575** (choose option 1 or ask for accommodation centre) **from 08:00 until 16:00 (Monday to Friday).**

Airport Office: **Tel: 041 581 0456** from **07:00 until 20:00 (Daily)**

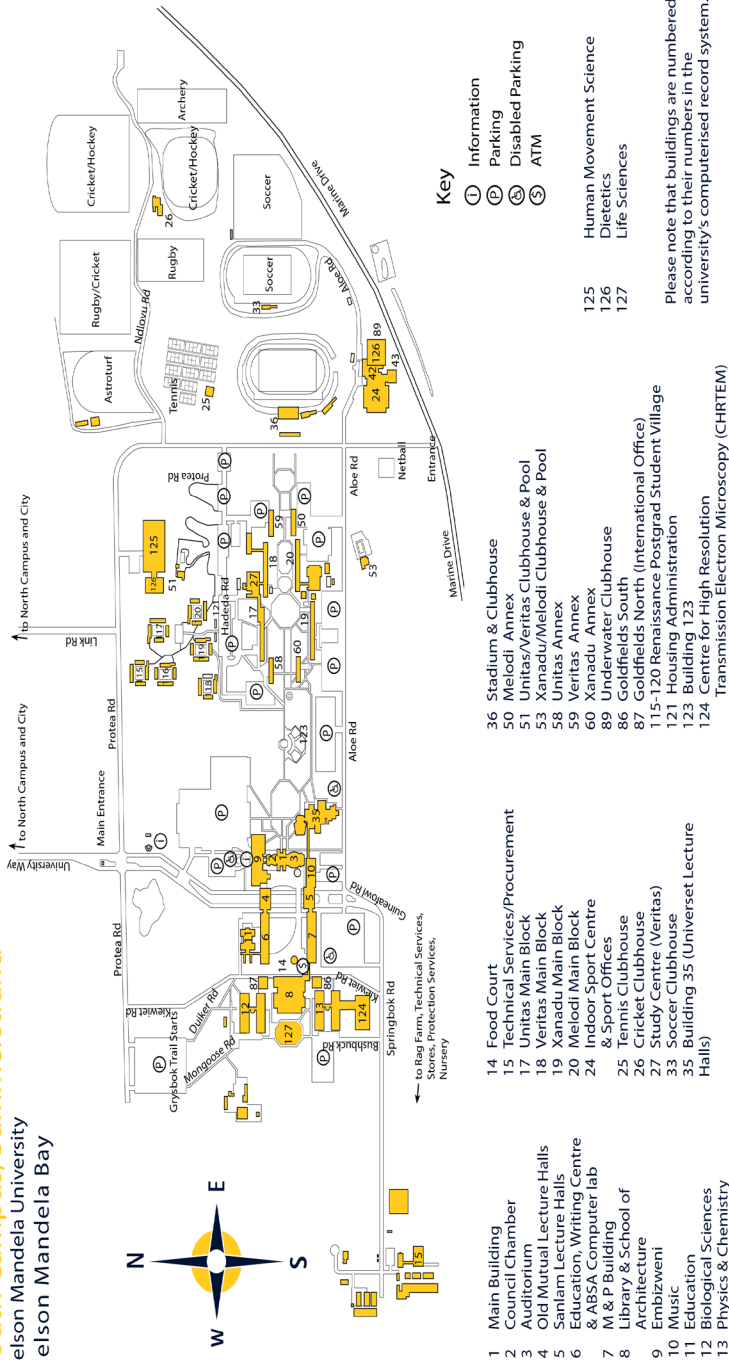
Campus Maps

A map indicating the major routes leading to the various University campuses has been included on the next couple of pages.



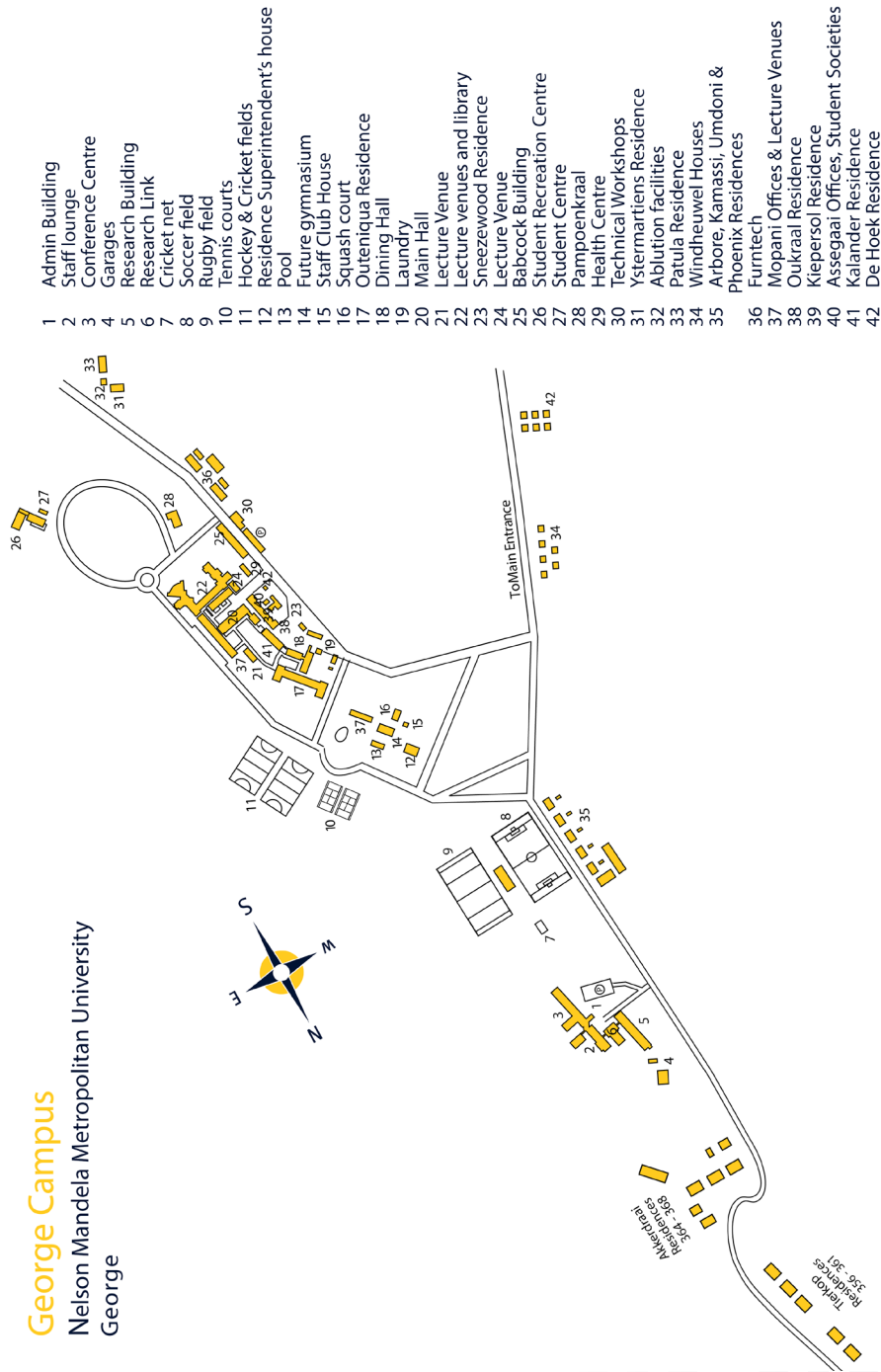
South Campus, Summerstrand

Nelson Mandela University
Nelson Mandela Bay



George Campus

Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University
George



Change the World

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