

# GRADUATION CEREMONIAL PROGRAMME

**CONGREGATIONS  
FOR THE  
CONFERMENT  
OF AWARDS**

Winter Graduation  
17-19 December 2024



# CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR GRADUATION



I would like to take the opportunity to welcome you to your Graduation at the University of Southampton, alongside your family and friends. Congratulations on all your achievements while at Southampton.

Graduation at Southampton is a truly memorable occasion and a chance to receive well-deserved recognition for all your hard work and dedication in the achievement of your degree. Here at Southampton, we are very proud of you and you should be similarly proud of all you have achieved, individually and collectively. I am sure you will enjoy this very special day with your family, friends and everyone who has supported you along the way.

There are a number of milestone moments in life and graduating from university is one of them. The completion of your degree and celebration of your achievements are even more impressive in light of the uncertainty and challenges in recent years. Please take the time to reflect on your own journey and what this means for you personally. For many of you, this may represent the end of your journey as a student and the start of your wider contribution to society. With the expanded knowledge you have gained through your studies and the skills you have developed as a result, you are now well equipped for the future. You have shown that you have the motivation to learn new things, which will set you in good stead for the next steps in life.

Since 1952, more than 290,000 students have been awarded degrees from the University of Southampton. During that time, we have built our reputation as a leading national and international higher education institution with a global reputation for education, research, innovation and enterprise. The commitment and contribution of our academic staff, and the talent and hard work demonstrated by you, our students, has made this success possible.

I am delighted to congratulate you personally on the award of your University of Southampton degree. We share in your pride and wish you every success. We welcome you as a lifelong member of your alumni community and I hope your experiences and memories from Southampton stay with you and form the foundation for a lasting relationship with the University.



**Professor Mark E. Smith CBE**

President and Vice-Chancellor  
University of Southampton

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# YOU ARE PART OF OUR SUCCESS STORY

**As a Southampton graduate, you are part of our distinguished 150 years of history.**

**During your time here, through your studies and extra-curricular activities, you have contributed to the vibrant and successful institution the University of Southampton is today.**

Highfield Campus

## Our history

You may already know that the University of Southampton received its Royal Charter on 29 April 1952, in the early weeks of the reign of HM Queen Elizabeth II. In fact, our roots go back much further than this – to 1862. This is when the Hartley Institution was established in the city centre, following a bequest by Henry Robinson Hartley, the son of a local wine merchant, to the Corporation of Southampton. Located in Below Bar, the Hartley Institution was opened by the then Prime Minister, Lord Palmerston.

In 1902 it was renamed Hartley College, before becoming Hartley University College and, later, University College, Southampton. The Hartley name is still remembered in the Hartley Library that we all know and love.

We were honoured to be the first university to be granted a Royal Charter by Queen Elizabeth II, two months after her accession to the throne.

The Royal Charter enabled Southampton for the first time to award its own degrees as a fully independent university, after many years as a degree-awarding branch of the University of London.

## Our University today

We've come a long way since then; from a student cohort of around 850 undergraduate and postgraduate students, we now have over 25,000 studying across our campuses in Southampton, Winchester and Malaysia. We welcome and support bright and motivated students from over 130 countries to be the best they can be, pioneer flexible learning and encourage interdisciplinary practice across our academic community.

Our Hospital Campus, the base for the study of medicine



Highfield Campus





Boldrewood Innovation Campus



Highfield Campus





John Hansard Gallery at our City Centre Campus



Avenue Campus

We have also built a strong national and international reputation for our research and teaching excellence. We are a founding member of the Russell Group, consistently placed in the top 100 universities in the world and we have a strong demonstrated continuous commitment to the quality of our teaching.

Innovative thinking and pioneering research are at the heart of our culture; our people are finding solutions for some of the biggest challenges that our planet is facing, pursuing environmental sustainability, and making a difference to the world.

This is the place that is leading the development of trustworthy and secure artificial intelligence; where fibre-optic research is creating a faster, smarter internet; where the immune system is leading the fight against cancer; where expertise is tackling the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance; where resources are being secured for the world's growing populations, and through the humanities, we better understand the world.

We stand for exploration and curiosity, interdisciplinary thinking, inventive education and cutting-edge facilities to catalyse change. We inspire minds, bring people and ideas together and give them the space and support to grow, create, ignite, and realise their potential.







Waterfront Campus

## The future

All of us in our University community, whatever our role, are custodians of an exceptional institution, one with a history we can all be proud of, and with a future that will prove even more remarkable.

As well as your degree and the lifelong friendships you have made, you are starting the next chapter of your life with a wealth of experiences that will help you shape your future into what you want it to be.

Many of you have participated in original research, undertaken work placements, been involved in enterprise activities, or spent time studying abroad at one of our partner institutions. You may also have taken on active roles in Students' Union clubs and societies or volunteering projects.

These experiences are what help make you unique. They add depth and context to your education and help you to stand out as you embark on the next step in your career. You are an important part of our story. Your achievements – both now and in the future – reflect on your University, while our successes enhance the value of your Southampton degree.



Highfield Campus



City Centre Campus

# OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARDS

**Our alumni are individually and collectively making a difference and we are incredibly proud to support them in their endeavours.**



## LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

### **Jayanti Shah MBE**

BSc Mechanical Engineering, 1971

Since arriving in Southampton in 1968, Jayanti has been an anti-racism campaigner in the city. In 2020, he received an MBE for services to promoting anti-racism in Southampton and Hampshire.

During this time, Jayanti has held multiple prominent voluntary positions in the Southampton Race Equality Council and contributed to the work of the city's race sub-committee in the past. He is currently Director of Positive Message, a non-profit organisation promoting racial inclusivity and tackling discrimination.

Jayanti is the Co-founder of Black History Month (BHM) in Southampton and his involvement has made it a success in the city.

Jayanti was a city ambassador for the 2025 City of Culture bid. He is a trustee of Artswork organisation. He continues with the same message, 'People are people' and in 2022, his TEDx talk was entitled Anti-racism - when there is only one human race.

He is also an engaged member of Southampton's alumni community, driving forward a local alumni network in the Southampton area. Jayanti has used his energy to help create an inclusive culture in Southampton over several decades.



## RISING STAR

### **Dr Jahangir Alom BEM**

BM6 Medicine, 2018

Jahangir graduated with the Deans Prize for Outstanding Contribution to the Faculty of Medicine. During his time at Southampton, he set up the Widening Access to Medicine Society (WAMSoc), working with over 1,000 school pupils in Hampshire. He was also the MedSoc President in 2016.

Jahangir was National Clinical Lead for the Staff COVID-19 Vaccine Programme at NHS England, leading the engagement strategy that saw 147,000 of the most hesitant healthcare workers get vaccinated. Jahangir is the Programme Director of an international charity, Selfless UK, which delivers evidence-based global health projects in rural Bangladesh.

Jahangir is a School Governor at Stepney All Saints School, a board member at the Institute of Public Policy Research, and a full time emergency medicine doctor.

He has received an NHS Parliamentary Award and British Empire Medal for services to tackling health inequalities in the King's New Years Honours List 2024. Jahangir is an expert in health inequalities and has provided commentary on the BBC, SkyNews, Channel 4 and CNN.





## CIVIC AWARD

### Veronica Gordon

BSc Social Policy and Administration, 2005

Veronica Gordon is a broadcast journalist turned social entrepreneur who uses her media skills, knowledge, and insight to empower Black and underrepresented communities.

She is the Founder of Our Version Media (OVM), a Southampton-based social enterprise leveraging digital media for social good.

Veronica combined her 15 years of journalism expertise (ITV regional news, BBC local radio, Unity 101 Community Radio, and digital media) with her 15 years of community activism to create OVM. Its mission is to amplify Black voices and tackle the harmful narratives perpetuated by traditional media.

OVM increases the positive visibility of Black communities by teaching digital media and journalism skills, enabling individuals to tell and share their own, authentic stories.

Veronica is also an award-winning radio personality and Founder of Vibrant Vibes, Southampton's leading African, Caribbean, and Black British community radio show.

In 2024, Veronica joined the Code Committee for Impress, the UK's independent press regulator, expanding her work to contribute to a more trustworthy, fair, and representative media landscape at a national level.



## ALUMNI SERVICE

### Chris Spackman

BSc Maths and Computer Science, 1981

After graduating from the University, Chris started work at Honeywell writing software for power station control systems. He then led a team introducing 'chip and pin' cards into the UK with Barclaycard. This led him into a career in computer security and resilience with American Express.

In 1994 he joined a team negotiating and implementing an early IT outsourcing deal for American Express. He was appointed to manage the \$450m arrangement, which didn't go well! However, this experience set him up for the rest of his career, advising on complex outsourcing deals with major multinational companies.

In 2016 he helped establish the University's Future Worlds start-up accelerator and remains a volunteer business mentor, giving a huge amount of time to help researchers and students bring their innovations to the market. He's also been a major supporter of the University's Ignite Programme helping undergraduates overcome challenges to thrive.

Chris has also volunteered for several national and local charities helping young people to reach their potential and older people stay independent.



## ALUMNI SERVICE

### Pascal Ezeabasi

BEng Aeronautics and Astronautics, 2020

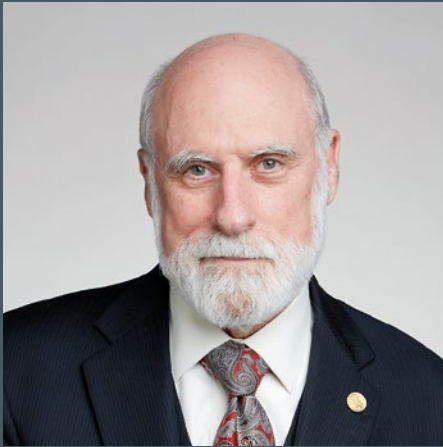
Pascal joined the University in 2016 from Seven Kings High School in Ilford and spent four years taking advantage of all the opportunities Southampton had to offer: teaching English as a foreign language in China, completing internships both at the University and in China with technology giant Huawei, and volunteering for the Engineering Society as Vice President for two years.

Upon graduating in 2020, Pascal was among the first volunteers to take part in the University's Graduate Ambassador Scheme, a programme that helps new graduates connect with current students to offer advice and support recruitment and employability at Southampton, stepping up to serve as a lead Graduate Ambassador in 2022.

Pascal's personal journey resonates profoundly with aspiring students facing similar challenges. He has run several networking workshops for students, contributed to focus groups and panels, and provided particular support to the University's widening participation agenda, through initiatives like the Ignite Programme and presentations to partner schools.



# HONORARY GRADUATES



**Vinton G Cerf**  
Doctor of Science

Vinton G Cerf is Vice-President and Chief Internet Evangelist for Google. He is the co-designer of the TCP/IP protocols and the architecture of the internet. He has served in executive positions at the Internet Corporation of Assigned Names and Numbers, the Internet Society, MCI, the Corporation for National Research Initiatives, and the US Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.

A former Stanford professor and former member of the US National Science Board, he is also the past President of the Association for Computing Machinery, Emeritus Chair of the Marconi Society and serves in advisory capacities at the US National Institute of Standards and Technology, US Department of Energy, US National Science Foundation, US Navy, JPL and the US National Reconnaissance Office.

He earned his BS Mathematics at Stanford and MS Computer Science and PhD Computer Science degrees at UCLA. He is a member of the US National Academies of Science and Engineering, the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists, and the Worshipful Company of Stationers.

Vinton is a recipient of numerous awards for his work, including: the US Presidential Medal of Freedom, US National Medal of Technology, the Queen Elizabeth Prize for Engineering, the Prince of Asturias Award, the Japan Prize, the Charles Stark Draper Award, the ACM Turing Award, the Marconi Prize and Marconi Lifetime Achievement Award, the IEEE Medal of Honor, the Legion d'Honneur, the VinFutures Grand Prize and the Franklin Medal. He is a Foreign Member of the British Royal Society and Swedish Academy of Engineering, and holds 29 honorary degrees.



**Professor Lucy Chappell**  
Doctor of Science

Professor Lucy Chappell is the Chief Scientific Adviser to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), reporting to Professor Sir Chris Whitty, the Chief Medical Officer.

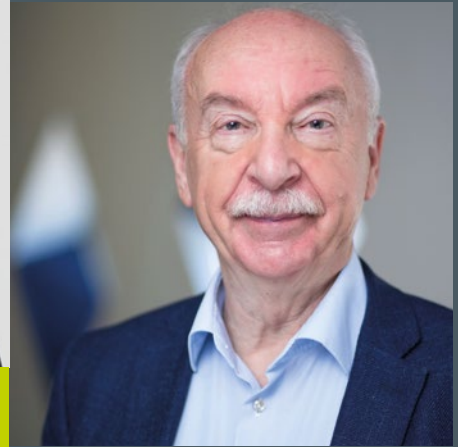
As the Chief Scientific Adviser, Lucy has overall responsibility for DHSC research and development and for supporting analysis and life sciences across the department. She provides science advice to ministers across a range of health topics and is involved in cross-government science policy.

Lucy is also Chief Executive Officer for the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR), the research delivery vehicle for the UK Department of Health and Social Care.

The NIHR delivers world-leading research in health and social care that improves people's health and wellbeing, benefiting individuals and our wider society through economic growth. It is the UK's largest funder of health and care research, providing over one billion pounds of funding for research every year.

In addition to these major national roles, Lucy is Professor of Obstetrics at King's College London, working mainly in clinical trials in pregnancy, and a practicing Consultant Obstetrician at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust.

Lucy is a Fellow of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (FRCOG) and has been awarded a Fellowship of the Academy of Medical Sciences (FMedSci) for the excellence of her science and contribution to medicine and society. She was also awarded a Gold Medal for her work in the field of reproduction by the Blair Bell Research Society in 1999.



**Gerd Gigerenzer**  
Doctor of Science

Gerd Gigerenzer, Director at the Max Planck Institute for Human Development, is Director of the Harding Center for Risk Literacy at the University of Potsdam, partner of Simply Rational – The Institute for Decisions, and Vice-President of the European Research Council (ERC).

He is former Professor of Psychology at the University of Chicago and John M Olin Distinguished Visiting Professor at the School of Law at the University of Virginia.

In addition, he is a member of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences, the German Academy of Sciences and an honorary member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Philosophical Society. Gerd is also Batten Fellow at the Darden Business School, University of Virginia.

Awards for Gerd's work include: the AAAS Prize for the best article in the behavioral sciences, the Association of American Publishers Prize for the best book in the social and behavioral sciences, the German Psychology Award, and the Communicator Award of the German Research Foundation.

His award-winning popular books *Calculated Risks*, *Gut Feelings*, *Risk Savvy*, and *How To Stay Smart In A Smart World* have been translated into more than 20 languages.

Together with the Bank of England, he is working on the project *Simple Heuristics* for a Safer World. He has trained US federal judges, German physicians, and international top managers in decision-making and understanding risks and uncertainties.

The Swiss Duttweiler Institute has distinguished Gerd as one of the top 100 Global Thought Leaders worldwide.



# OUR CHANCELLORS

**At Summer Graduation, we announced the appointment of the Rt Hon Justine Greening and Lord Patel of Bradford as our new University Chancellors.**



**Rt Hon Justine Greening**



**Lord Patel of Bradford OBE**

Our Chancellors are the leading ambassadors of the University through activities linked to our Strategy.

In their role, Justine and Lord Patel will preside over graduation ceremonies and play an active role in other aspects of the University's development.

Justine graduated from Southampton in 1990 with a first-class honours in Business Economics and Accounting. She was elected Conservative MP for Putney, Roehampton and Southfields in 2005 and remained an MP until 2019.

Justine has had various roles in the Cabinet including serving as Secretary of State for Education and Minister for Women and Equalities from July 2016 to January 2018, during which time she launched the Social Mobility Action Plan and the Gender Pay Gap regulations. Since leaving Parliament in late 2019, Justine has campaigned for social mobility and equality of opportunity. In July 2023 she was awarded an honorary doctorate at Southampton.

Lord Patel began his career as a social worker, later moving into academia and government roles relating to health, education and social care. He was awarded an OBE in 1999 for services to ethnic minority health issues.

Lord Patel is a member of the House of Lords and was made a life peer in 2006. In 2018, he was appointed Chair of Social Work England, the regulator for child, family and adult social workers in England. He is also Chair of the India Business Group.

Lord Patel also already has links to the University, as a valued patron for The India Centre for Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development. He was awarded an honorary degree in 2018.

**Justine will be one of our ceremonial officers at this year's Winter Graduation.**



# CEREMONIAL OFFICERS

Our graduation ceremonies will be presided over by one of our senior officers below.



## **Professor Sir Ian Diamond**

Chair of Council

Since August 2018, Sir Ian has been the National Statistician and Permanent Secretary of the Office for National Statistics.

Prior to this role he was Chief Executive of the Economic and Statistics Research Council, from 2003–2010, and Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Aberdeen, from 2010–2018.

These roles followed almost 23 years at the University of Southampton where he was Lecturer, Professor, Head of Social Statistics, Dean of Social Sciences and Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

Sir Ian is a passionate teacher and researcher who has worked on the analysis of large and complex data sets most notably in population, and on census design and analysis. His research has crossed many disciplinary boundaries and he has worked with several government departments both in the UK and internationally.

He has also chaired British Universities and Colleges Sport, Lloyds Bank Foundation for England and Wales, and Edinburgh College of Further Education. He is currently chairing Plan International UK.

Sir Ian has also been a board member of WWF UK, UK Research and Innovation, UCAS, Universities UK, Lancaster University, and the Iona Cathedral Trust.



## **Philip Greenish CBE**

Pro-Chancellor

Philip was Chair of Council, the University's governing body, from 2018 until April 2024 having served as a lay member since 2012. He is a member of the Audit Risk and Assurance Committee of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and of the Audit Committee of the British Academy.

He was Chief Executive of the Royal Academy of Engineering from 2003 until December 2017 following his first career in the Royal Navy, from which he retired as a Rear Admiral. He has served as a Council member of two of the UK's Research Councils and as a trustee of a number of charities.

He was educated at Cheltenham College and Durham University where he read Engineering Science, graduating in 1972, and he is a graduate of the Royal College of Defence Studies. He is a Chartered Engineer, an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering, and a Fellow of the Institution of Engineering and Technology.

He was a board member of Engineering UK from 2008 to 2018. He holds an honorary doctorate from Huddersfield University. He was awarded a CBE in 2003.





### **Professor Mark E. Smith CBE**

President and Vice-Chancellor

As President and Vice-Chancellor, Mark is the Chief Executive of the University and has overall responsibility for its operations. He took up this role on 1 October 2019.

Mark was Vice-Chancellor at Lancaster University from 2012 until September 2019. He was previously Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Warwick.

Throughout his academic career, he has published more than 380 papers about advanced magnetic resonance techniques, helping to understand a range of problems in the field of materials physics.

Mark holds several external appointments including Senior Independent Member of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC); and board member of the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales, chairing their Research Wales Committee.

He was awarded a CBE for Services to Research and Higher Education in the 2019 Queen's Birthday Honours.



### **Professor Phil Wright**

Senior Vice-President (Academic)

Phil has a vital role in promoting and maintaining the University's academic mission including having oversight of all academic planning across faculties and ensuring the alignment of resources with the University's strategic goals. He provides a key focus for ensuring a One Southampton approach to a range of strategic activities including championing the development of an Estates and Sustainability agenda.

Phil is a Professor of Chemical Engineering. In his research, he uses synthetic biology and metabolic engineering approaches to improve energy generation and production of biopharmaceuticals.

He focuses on measurement (primarily using biological mass spectrometry) and integration of multi-level biological data (such as proteomic and mRNA data), mathematical tools and characterising omics-scale data.

Phil has published over 200 peer-reviewed journal papers and has been an investigator on approximately £10m of external research funding. He is a Fellow of the Institution of Chemical Engineers and a Chartered Engineer.

# CEREMONIAL OFFICERS



## **Professor Deborah Gill**

Vice-President  
(Education and Student Experience)

Deborah joined Southampton in April 2022 from University College London (UCL) where she was Interim Vice-Provost, Education and Student Experience.

She began her academic career in 1996, combining academic work with clinical practice as a GP in North London for over 20 years. She has pioneered the integration of community-based education in medicine programmes and published extensively in a range of clinical education areas including doctors as teachers, personal and professional identity formation in new doctors, and transnational medical education.

Awarded a Chair in Medical Education at UCL in 2015, she went on to lead UCL Medical School for six years where she developed a highly successful education consultancy unit that has supported medicine programmes and educators in Europe and the Far and Middle East.

Deborah is a Fellow of the Royal College of General Practitioners and Principal Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.



## **Professor Jane Falkingham CBE**

Vice-President  
(Engagement and International)

As Vice President (Engagement and International), Jane is leading on our Civic University Strategy, working in partnership with our key stakeholders - locally, regionally, nationally and globally. She is especially proud of being the sponsor for our recent application to become a University of Sanctuary.

Jane is also leading the University's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion strategic plan and is committed to the University being a place where all students and staff feel that they belong and can be their true selves.

As Professor of Demography and International Social Policy at the University of Southampton, Jane is also the Director of the ESRC Centre for Population Change. Her remit is to improve understanding of the drivers and consequences of population change and she is also the principal investigator of the new ESRC Connecting Generations research collaboration.

Jane has a long history of service to the academic community both in the UK and internationally. From 2017-2022, she was a Member of ESRC Council and chaired the COVID-19 Rapid Response funding panel. Jane was President of the British Society for Population Studies (2015-2017) and President of the European Association for Population Studies (2018-2020).

She was elected as a Fellow of the UK Academy of Social Sciences in 2011 and the Royal Society of Arts in 2016. In January 2023, Jane was named as a Commander of the British Empire (CBE) in the King's first New Year's Honours.





### **Pascal Matthias**

Associate Vice-President  
(Equality, Diversity and Inclusion)

Pascal was appointed to the role of Associate Vice President for EDI and Social Justice in February 2023. He is responsible for working with the University's senior leadership team to develop individual and collective leadership of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policies, practices and procedures.

Pascal describes his purpose as acting as a driving force in amplifying and promoting the voices and ambitions of racialised, minoritised and marginalised staff and student voices.

Pascal has a background in fashion design and fashion marketing and continues to teach fashion management and marketing at the Winchester School of Art.

In 2020 Pascal Co-founded a group called FACE consisting of Black academics. The aims of the group have been to support, engage and challenge higher education, further education and the fashion industry to be more inclusive, unified and equal regardless of race, colour or ethnicity.

Pascal consults for the NHS on EDI, is a TEDx speaker and has written in publications including *Times Education* and *Huffington Post*.



### **Professor Rebecca Hoyle**

Associate Vice-President  
(Interdisciplinary Research)

Rebecca supports research in the University that crosses traditional disciplinary divides. She enjoys bringing people together to share diverse perspectives and spark creativity in new collaborations. She finds it inspiring to see the new ideas that emerge when artists, engineers, scientists, social scientists and medics start chatting together.

She is also the University's lead for research culture, focusing on building and sustaining a positive culture that supports the wellbeing of our research community and helps them to do their best research.

Rebecca is a Professor of Mathematics. Her own research is interdisciplinary, applying mathematical modelling in the life and social sciences. She is currently researching the lifecourse determinants of early-onset multimorbidity, aiming to help understand when the impact of having multiple health conditions becomes burdensome and to identify opportunities for intervention.

She is also a Fellow of the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications, and won its inaugural Hedy Lamarr Prize for Knowledge Exchange in Mathematics and its Applications in 2021 for 'sustained contributions to knowledge exchange in the mathematical sciences, creating new links between academia and the wider world, and inspiring, enhancing and supporting others in their knowledge exchange'.

# UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON ACADEMIC DRESS

Your graduation ceremony is all about you! It is your chance to celebrate your amazing achievements with your peers, University staff, friends and family.

It is the moment that your years of study and dedication to your subject have been leading up to; a moment that we hope you will cherish and look back on fondly for the rest of your life.



Graduation celebrations outside  
O2 Guildhall Southampton

## Ceremony schedule

- The congregation is asked to stand as the procession enters the venue and to remain standing until the Presiding Officer and members of the procession have taken their seats.
- The Presiding Officer will declare graduation open and address the congregation.
- If there is an award for a higher doctorate, these will be presented first.
- The reader will read the degree classifications to be awarded. Graduands will process across the stage when their name is being read and receive a handshake (or a similar formal gesture) from the Presiding Officer.
- The Dean of Faculty or their nominated officer will address the congregation.
- The Presiding Officer will address the congregation and declare graduation closed.
- The congregation is requested to stand for the procession and remain in their seats until the entire procession has left the stage.

## Order of procession

The procession will enter the ceremonial hall in the following order:

- The Academic Marshal (carrying the Jubilee Mace)
- Members of University staff
- The University Marshal (carrying the University Wand)
- Representatives from the Students' Union
- Representatives from the Faith and Reflection Centre
- Directors of Professional Services
- Members of the University Executive Board
- Honorary Graduands (if attending)
- The Public Orator (if attending)
- The Dean and senior members of faculties
- The Vice-Presidents
- The Pro-Chancellors
- The Chancellor (if attending)
- The Graduand Presenter/Reader
- The Mayor/High Sheriff (if attending) The President and Vice-Chancellor (if not presiding)
- The Presiding Officer
- Esquire Bedell (carrying the Foundation Mace)







## Ceremony robes and silk colours

Traditional university costume has endured for centuries and is a symbol of the prestige and importance of the degree award you are receiving today. The academic dress worn by members of the procession differs depending on their role in the celebration. Some officers and university staff will also wear robes from the universities where they took their degrees.

Your academic robes and colour of silks will depend on the degree subject and classification that you are being awarded today. Our University colours are explained here.

## Ceremonial venue: O2 Guildhall Southampton

To reflect the importance of this year's Graduation celebrations and our partnership with, and presence in, the city of Southampton, our prestigious venue is O2 Guildhall Southampton.

O2 Guildhall Southampton is the city's largest multi-functional venue. With seating for over 1,000 people, the atmospheric main auditorium's original 1930s art deco surroundings will make your Graduation truly unforgettable.



Graduation ceremony



## University of Southampton colours and silks



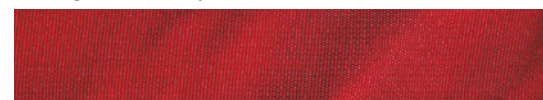
*Medicine and Surgery*



*Science in Medicine, Health and Biological Sciences*



*Nursing and Midwifery*



*Philosophy*



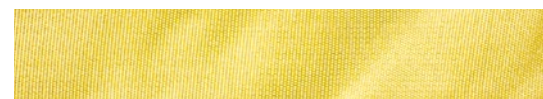
*Arts and Letters*



*Science*



*Science in the Social Sciences*



*Engineering*



*Laws*



# STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES

Graduation is an opportunity to celebrate your time and achievements at Southampton, and share in the successes of your peers.



Tobias King-Cline, second from left

## PROGRESSING INNOVATION IN DRONE TECHNOLOGY

Tobias King-Cline (MEng Aeronautics and Astronautics, 2024), who graduated in the summer, is working alongside academics to test a drone fitted with its own 'nervous system'.

As a student, Tobias was involved with Soton UAV, a team of students and staff from the University that design, manufacture and fly uncrewed aerial vehicles (UAVs). Since graduating, he has worked as a researcher, helping to spearhead pioneering technology to help drones stay operating in the sky for longer. The system, which is made of optical fibres, reduces how often the drone needs to land for inspection.

He believes the technology could change the way drones are used in many industries.

Tobias comments: "The drone was first developed to deliver life-saving equipment like defibrillators in emergencies, but it's served as an excellent test platform for the optical fibre nervous system.

"What has really excited us is seeing the live data from the fibre system. It showed that the technology could keep drones operational longer without the need for extensive ground crews."



## STRIKING THE RIGHT NOTE

Music graduate Genevieve Namazzi has many strings to her bow. She is a successful jazz bassist and classical viola player with plenty of experience playing on TV and radio.

Genevieve has played live on TV for *Soccer Aid* in 2022, *Blue Peter* in 2020 and on *Britain's got Talent* in 2020 alongside Chineke! Junior Orchestra.

"I've also played in large venues such as the Royal Albert Hall, London Palladium, London Stadium, Amsterdam Concertgebouw, KKL Lucerne, and Berlin Konzerthaus with the likes of Robbie Williams, Clean Bandit, Chineke! Orchestra and DON BROCO," she says.

During her studies, she was also President of the University of Southampton Jazz Orchestra, and as a multi-instrumentalist playing bass, viola, violin and piano, she is also a private music tutor based in Croydon.

Genevieve aims to study a master's jazz bass degree at Conservatoire, continue performing, writing music and teaching. She would also like to start a small coffee business selling brewing equipment and unique coffee.





## SHOWCASING ROYAL MUSICAL TASTE IN WORDS AND MUSIC

Postgraduate music student Mary-Jannet Leith, who graduates this winter, has conducted research on the musical passions and talents of Queen Charlotte.

During her PhD placement at the British Library in 2021, Mary-Jannet worked with manuscript volumes in the Royal Music Library. It was during this time that she became fascinated by the profound emotional relationship Queen Charlotte and George III had with music.

In 2022, she was awarded a Georgian Papers Fellowship to continue her research into Queen Charlotte's music collection. That year, she also received a grant from the Continuo Foundation to recreate one of Queen Charlotte's musical salons with her Early Music group Ensemble Hesper. In April 2023, she appeared on BBC Radio 3's *Free Thinking* programme to discuss Queen Charlotte's contribution to the musical fashions of her day.

Mary-Jannet comments: "It was very exciting to be part of the media attention around Queen Charlotte ahead of the launch of Netflix's *Queen Charlotte: a Bridgerton Story*, and to bring my research to life through musical performance."



## HIGHLIGHTING OUR VIBRANT INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

Final-year marketing management student Balaji Coimbatore Senthilkumar has taken advantage of an internship at the University that has helped him get ready for his future career, while also helping international students to get the most out of their time at Southampton.

As a student from India, Balaji has first-hand experience of moving to the UK to study.

"Through my internship in the University's International Office, I am helping to promote opportunities tailored towards our diverse community of international students, of which I am also a part," he says.

"As an International Student Officer, I engage with the student community, tapping into their unique stories and perspectives on international student life. I also collaborate with various international societies to create engaging content that reflects the rich diversity on campus."

Through his work in the International Office, Balaji has also gained a real-world understanding of marketing strategies, public relations and coordinating events.

"Working with the International Office has helped me gain a lot of experience, which will come in useful as I hope to become a marketing consultant one day," he adds.



## INSPIRED TO IMPROVE CARDIAC HEALTH

Nursing student Jasmine Grant, who graduates this winter, was inspired to pursue her specialism in cardiac care by a family bereavement.

In the second year of her studies, Jasmine's father had a sudden cardiac arrest and sadly passed away. As a result, Jasmine took some time away and postponed her exams. Once she felt strong enough, Jasmine worked extremely hard and dedicated herself to her studies – retaking her exams later in the summer.

In her third year, influenced by the healthcare workers who helped her father, Jasmine chose to complete her 2,300 hours of placement in a cardiac unit at University Hospital Southampton. Here she provided care for post-surgical patients who have had transcatheter aortic valve implantations.

Jasmine comments: "In terms of my journey and experience, continuing my degree following my dad's sudden passing was one of the hardest things I've ever had to do. It continues to be really difficult and, at times, completely overwhelming.

"But I know my dad would have wanted me to achieve my goals and so I've tried my best to turn a truly tragic situation into something that motivates and inspires me to help others live healthy and fulfilling lives. I now feel honoured to call myself a cardiac nurse and I hope to make him proud every day."



## ENSURING ALL VOICES ARE HEARD

Marketing graduate Yasmine Gendy dedicated her time at Southampton to creating a safe and welcoming community for all students, as well as enabling the voices of students from underrepresented groups to be heard.

Yasmine has taken on many roles within SUSU during her four years at the University.

As Chair of SUSU Senate from 2023, Yasmine had a pivotal role in representing the student body and ensuring all voices are heard. Her proactive approach to building relationships with fellow students allowed her to establish strong connections, enabling her to effectively advocate for their interests and concerns.

She has worked with young people and adults from groups that are currently underrepresented in higher education, within the University's Widening Participation and Social Mobility (WPSM) Directorate, which aims to improve equity across the student lifecycle.

Yasmine has also shown an entrepreneurial flair during her studies. She has participated in the Future Directors programme, been a lead ambassador for Future Worlds, the University's on-campus startup accelerator, and was this year selected to join UN Women UK.

"I'm really passionate about expanding representation at the University and the Students' Union. It is so important to amplify the voices of people from all different backgrounds and advocate for more action towards a truly inclusive community. That's how we make change," she says.



# YOUR ALUMNI COMMUNITY

Congratulations – you did it! As a graduate of the University of Southampton, you're now part of a global community of more than 290,000 alumni spanning 185 countries and overseas territories.

This network of talented people has one thing in common: a shared connection that can help open doors, build relationships, and shape your future.

This is not the end of your journey at Southampton, but the beginning of a lifelong relationship.



As a graduate, you'll continue to have access to a whole host of career-catalysing support:

- Apply for internships, get career mentoring and find networking opportunities for up to one year after you graduate.
- Access one-to-one guidance appointments with our dedicated Careers team for five years after graduation.

You can also:

- Receive a 10 per cent discount on postgraduate degrees at the University.
- Connect with your community online via our alumni social media channels (@sotonalumni), find a local or overseas network, or attend one of our many events in-person or online.
- Stay up-to-date with the University via *Hartley News*, our alumni magazine, and our regular e-newsletter, *What's On*.
- Enjoy library access and discounted Southampton Sport membership.

## Stay connected

Staying connected to the University and your alumni community is one of the best ways to make sure you have everything you need to achieve remarkable things, land your dream job and keep developing your skills.

**To make sure you have full access to your benefits and support, please make sure we have the most up-to-date contact details for you. Most of our communication will be via email, so giving us your consent is important.**

**Updating your contact details is quick and simple – just visit [www.southampton.ac.uk/update](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/update)**

And don't forget to let us know if anything changes.

You can find more information about what it means to be a graduate of Southampton on our website, along with resources to help you take your next step. Alternatively, you can contact the Office of Development and Alumni Relations by emailing [alumni@southampton.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@southampton.ac.uk)

Congratulations again on your amazing achievement – we are so proud of you! We hope you have a memorable day and we look forward to staying in touch.

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