



The UNIVERSITY
of NEWCASTLE

GRADUATION 2025



100 YEARS

OF LOOKING AHEAD

Our values

The University of Newcastle's values set the standards that we expect, encourage and nurture in our staff and students. They guide our decision making and position us to achieve our purpose.

EXCELLENCE

We pursue the exceptional and strive for innovation in our teaching, research and operating environment.

ENGAGEMENT

We are deeply connected to the challenges and opportunities in our regions and beyond.

EQUITY

We are committed to widening participation, promoting diversity and fairness, overcoming injustice and increasing success for all.

SUSTAINABILITY

We are ethically minded and prioritise responsible management of our environment and financial resources.

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands within our footprint areas. We pay respect to the wisdom of our Elders both past and present. We also acknowledge and pay respect to the other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nations from which our students, staff and community are drawn.

Order of proceedings

The Master of Ceremonies will announce the commencement of the ceremony

The University Fanfare will herald the entry of the Dais Party

The assembly will rise and remain standing until the conclusion of the National Anthem

The Chancellor will open the proceedings

The Vice-Chancellor and President will address the assembly and introduce the Occasional Speaker

The Occasional Address will be delivered

The Chancellor will invite a College representative to present the graduates

A Musical Interlude will be performed

The presentation of graduates will continue

The Chancellor will invite the Graduate Speaker to address the assembly

The Chancellor will declare the proceedings concluded

The University Fanfare will herald the departure of the Dais Party

Graduates and their guests will be invited to depart the auditorium in turn



Top 1%
University in the world*



A Message of Congratulations!

Dear Graduate,

Congratulations on reaching one of life's major milestones! On behalf of the University of Newcastle community we extend our heartfelt best wishes.

You should feel proud of the commitment and determination that you have demonstrated throughout your studies. We take joy in seeing the vibrant community you as students have helped create at our University.

To our graduates, we thank you for your contributions as students of the University of Newcastle. We hope the friendships you have developed at our University will stay with you for many years to come.

Graduates from the University of Newcastle carry with them our University's reputation as a world leader. Our University is one of the top 1% of universities in the world. You can feel proud to be an alumni of our high-achieving university.

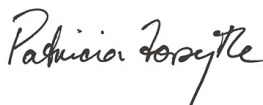
This year our University has celebrated its 60th anniversary. For six decades, the University of Newcastle has opened doors to higher education for thousands, pioneered groundbreaking research to solve local and global challenges, and played a vital role in creating a thriving region. Our graduates are an integral part of our history and our future.

Today, we warmly welcome you into our global community of more than 200,000 talented and successful alumni. The University of Newcastle wishes you every success as you enter the next stage of your life.

On this special occasion, please take a moment to think back to your first day at our University, and reflect on your journey. You can be proud of what you have worked hard to achieve.

You can look to the future with great optimism – the opportunities open to you are endless.

Congratulations!



The Hon. Patricia Forsythe AM
Chancellor



Professor Alex Zelinsky AO
Vice-Chancellor and President



#1

in the sector for
Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander
student enrolments*



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commitment

The University of Newcastle declares its commitment to developing a strong community and fostering mutual respect, social justice and a united voice between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the wider community.

The University of Newcastle respects and acknowledges the Aboriginal land on which the Australian campuses of the University are located. We acknowledge the Aboriginal nations on whose traditional lands the University has a presence, respecting and acknowledging the traditional peoples and the cultural significance and history of the land.

The University is aware of the impact of colonisation including the removal of children, the loss of land, the destruction of languages and culture, and the ongoing struggle for social and restorative justice. Through acknowledging and understanding past losses and injustices and through committing to redressing the social and economic challenges and ongoing racism, we will continue to move forward together to a better future.

The University recognises that education plays an integral role in providing a foundation and platform for the exercise of self-determination and the empowerment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Through collaboration and the provision of culturally responsive education the University seeks to educate and contribute to the development of a harmonious community.

The University's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities have supported the University in ensuring an Aboriginal presence at the University and appropriate and effective levels of consultation and collaboration through the sharing of Aboriginal voices, cultural wisdom and knowledge. These attributes are essential to moving forward to a future of equality and respect in teaching and learning, research, cultural inclusion, celebrating diverse cultures and success. The University acknowledges and appreciates the contribution and support by all communities. We will continue to build on existing partnerships and respectful relationships designed to contribute to the ongoing endeavour of redressing the circumstance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education, health, cultures, languages, social justice, employment and empowerment.

The University is committed to providing an environment that is free from racism and discrimination, developing opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to access and succeed in higher education. The University embraces the unique and diverse cultures of Aboriginal – the oldest continuing culture in the world – and Torres Strait Islander peoples and to ensure the growth of knowledge for all Australians.



Top 40

in the world
for impact*



A brief history of graduation

The graduation ceremony is one of great antiquity. Its essential features have been the same since the 12th century when the first universities came into existence. Its necessary constituents are the Chancellor or their Deputy, the academic staff, the graduates, and the public.

The church had a monopoly on education, partly because it was the guardian of true doctrine, and partly because clerics were almost the only people who could read and write. As a result, the only person who could license a teacher was the bishop of a diocese until, under pressure of other business, he deputed the task to his chief secretary or chancellor.

The second group participating in the ceremony is the academic staff. In the 12th century they would all have been called “masters” or MAs. At that date they were paid no salaries, but hired their own lecture rooms and charged their own fees. But they also formed themselves into a guild or union, which is what *universitas* originally meant. In the 13th century they won a great victory when they persuaded the Pope to decree that chancellors were obliged to confer degrees on all those nominated by the masters. That is why the masters examine the candidates, why the Dean, acting as their spokesperson, reads out the names of those who are to receive degrees, and why the masters at this ceremony watch to see that the Chancellor or their Deputy does what is required of them.

Thirdly, the graduates. The word “degree” comes from the Latin *gradus*, which means “a step”. When students are admitted to a bachelor degree they move one step up towards the mastership. When they are admitted to a master’s degree they climb another step and come up on a level with the masters, who then receive them into their guild or *universitas*.

The academic gowns are derived from the everyday dress of the medieval clergy. In the Middle Ages they were not open in front, but closed like a clergyman’s cassock. It was in about 1500 that academics had the front opened up so as to display the fine clothes that they were wearing underneath. The hood was the normal medieval headwear, but it soon acquired a coloured lining. By the 17th century, if not earlier, these colours were strictly controlled so that anyone could identify the university and the degree from the colour of a graduate’s hood.

The public is the fourth participant. It has an important function because the whole point of the proceedings is that they should be seen and heard by valid witnesses. The public hears the words of the Dean and the Chancellor and sees the new graduates dressed in their respective gowns or robes.

The foregoing is an adaptation of an address given at a graduation ceremony at the University of Birmingham by Emeritus Professor R H C Davis and reprinted in his book ‘From Alfred the Great to Stephen’ (Hambleton Press, 1991), pp. 307-309.

It is reproduced with kind permission of the author’s widow.

The graduation ceremony

The Mace

The Mace is the symbol of formal authority. The Mace used today belongs to the University of Newcastle and was designed by gold and silversmith, Gerald Benney. It is made of Australian walnut and silver and its head represents an open book – the traditional symbol of learning. The Mace was a gift from the University of New South Wales to commemorate the establishment of the University of Newcastle as an autonomous institution on 1 January 1965. It is always borne ahead of the Chancellor in the academic procession during formal ceremonies such as today's presentation of academic awards.

The University of Newcastle Fanfare

The Fanfare is played at all ceremonial functions to herald the entry and departure of the Chancellor and other members of the Council. It was composed by Professor Robert Constable and first performed in 1994.

The University Medal

The award of a University Medal is an honour made only when there is a candidate of sufficient merit. To be considered for this award, a graduate must have a consistent record of exceptional academic achievement at all levels of their degree program, and qualify with the highest level of that degree.

Honours

The award of Honours is given to students who complete an additional year of study after the completion of a bachelor's degree. Some bachelor's degrees, such as Engineering or Education, have Honours embedded in the four year degree program. Honours generally consists of part coursework and part research requiring submission of a thesis. Honours can be awarded as Class I, Class II Division 1, Class II Division 2, or Class III.

With Distinction

A bachelors or masters degree is conferred with Distinction in cases where a candidate has achieved a Grade Point Average of 6.0 or above in the degree, out of a maximum of 7.0.

Combined degree

A combined degree is one where a student studies for two separate degrees at the same time. It is possible for the student to complete the degree requirements for one degree ahead of the other. The student receives a testamur for each degree. Places for combined degrees are very competitive and offered to the highest performing students who apply.



=1st

Australian University to
receive Science in Australia
Gender Equity (SAGE) Athena
SWAN Silver Award*

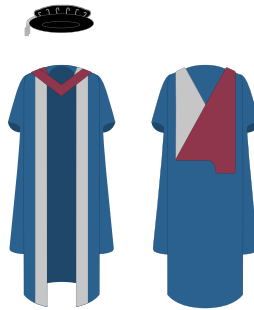


The graduate academic dress

The gown worn by graduands reflects the level of award being conferred upon them and the colour of the hood indicates the discipline of the award. The styles of academic dress worn by University of Newcastle graduates are illustrated here.



Doctor of Philosophy



**Doctor of Business
Administration**



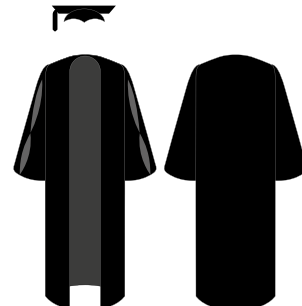
Master of Philosophy



Master



Bachelor



**Graduate Diploma |
Graduate Certificate**

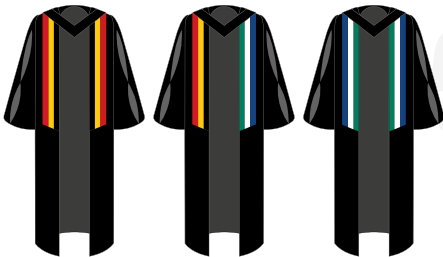
Aboriginal stole

The red, yellow and black stoles are worn by Aboriginal students and staff during graduation and relate to the colours of the Aboriginal flag. The colours of the Aboriginal flag represent the land (red), the sun (yellow) and the people (black).

Torres Strait Islander stole

The green, blue and black stoles are worn by Torres Strait Islander students during graduation and relate to the colours of the Torres Strait Islander flag. The colours of the Torres Strait Islander flag represent the land (green), the sea (blue) and the people (black).

The University of Newcastle is a national leader in the attraction and success of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. The wearing of the stoles celebrates culture and identity in a significant ceremony that also celebrates success.



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Stoles

Bachelor and Master hood

As you look around at a graduation ceremony, you will notice different colours on the inside of graduation hoods. These colours are representative of different disciplines of study as follows:

- Natural and Physical Sciences
- Information Technology
- Engineering and related Technologies
- Architecture and Building
- Medicine and Health Sciences
- Nursing
- Education
- Management, Commerce and Economics
- Arts, Psychology, Social Science and Social Work
- Law
- Indigenous Studies
- Music
- Visual Arts, Design and Communication Studies



#2

in the world for
Climate Action*



The University Council

As at 17 November 2025

Official Members

Chancellor

The Hon. Patricia Forsythe AM
BA, DipEd (Newcastle), FAICD

Vice-Chancellor and President

Professor Alex Zelinsky AO
BMathSc(Hons), PhD, Hon DSc (UOW), GradDip (AICD),
FAA, FTSE, FIEEE, Hon FIEAust, FAICD

President of Academic Senate

Associate Professor Marcus Rodrigs
BCom, MCom, MPhil, PhD, MAICD, CPA

Ministerial Appointees

The Hon. Dr John Della Bosca AM
PhD, MLitt (USyd), BA (UNSW)

Ms Liz Nicol
MBA (Newcastle), Grad Dip OHS (Newcastle),
FAICD, FGIA

Elected Staff Members

Associate Professor Brendan Boyle
BBus (DKIT, Ireland), MBS (UCD, Ireland), PhD (Sydney)

Ms Wendy Taggart
BBus (UTS), MTeach (Newcastle), AARE

Dr Annika Westrenius
B.Mgmt, B.Bus(Hons1), PhD(Mgmt) (Newcastle)

Elected Student Members

Mr Jacob Carson
BA (Newcastle), UCTh (Morling), AAICD

Ms Laura Dowling
BBioMedSc(Hons1), DipLang(French) (Newcastle)

External Members Appointed By Council

Mr Jason Darney
B.SocSc, Grad Cert (Education), Grad Dip (Mgmt)

Adjunct Professor Michael Di Rienzo
BCom (Newcastle)

Ms Julie Phillips
BPharm, MSc (Sydney), Dip Hosp Pharm, MBA
(Marq), MPS, AICD

Mr Noel Cornish AM
BSc(Met) (Newcastle), MEngSc, FAICD, FUOW

Ms Elizabeth Crouch AM
MCSec, BEc (MQ), CertClimGov (AICD), FAICD

Deputy Chancellor

Mr Kevin Young
BE(Hons1), MBA (Newcastle), Hon FIEAust, FAICD



ALUMNI STORIES

Emma Myers

2024 Young Alumni Award Recipient
Bachelor of Arts (Honours) 2022, Bachelor of Arts 2020,
Open Foundation Certificate Program 2017

Emma Myers is a pioneering force in Australia's media industry, reshaping the landscape of representation and inclusion. Born with cerebral palsy, she has defied scepticism and low expectations and become a leading voice for change. Despite being told she wouldn't succeed academically, Emma's love for learning led her to pursue higher education through the University of Newcastle's Open Foundation program, leading to her completing a Bachelor of Arts (Honours).

In 2022, she co-created the SBS Digital Originals series *Latecomers*, which explores intimacy and relationships for individuals with disabilities, drawing from her own experiences. The series won the 2024 AACTA Award for Best Online Drama or Comedy.

"I've always known that the media is an incredibly powerful tool in the way that it can shape the lives of everyday individuals. And that's a huge drive for me to continue to promote and inspire change towards the treatment of disabled individuals."

Beyond 'Latecomers', Emma has become a sought-after speaker and advocate. Her poignant TEDx Talk in late 2023 addressed the challenges faced by women with disabilities due to misrepresentation on screen, highlighting a topic often overlooked by society.

Emma now serves as a Disability Rights and Political Reporter at the Community Broadcasting Association of Australia in Canberra, continuing her commitment to advocacy and change.

Emma has played an active role in the Screenworks Inside the Writers Room program and served on the Gender Matters Taskforce with Screen Australia. She also contributed to the media team for the 2018 Invictus Games, working alongside notable figures like Dylan Alcott, received the Lion's Youth Award, and held the title of Miss Cessnock City for two years.

"I've always had a drive to change the perceptions of people living with a disability. So much of media representations and portrayals on screen feed into the public conscious, and that impacts on the way people with disabilities are viewed and treated and live their daily life."

Emma Myers' journey reflects her deep belief in the transformative power of education and media. Her work continues to break barriers and pave the way for a more inclusive and representative media landscape.

YEARS OF LOOKING AHEAD



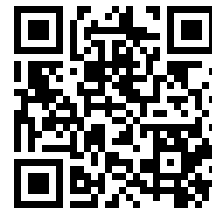
“Without help, I didn’t think I would be able to graduate. Receiving the scholarship was a lifesaver.”

Jake

Shaping Futures Scholarship Recipient
Bachelor of Teaching (Science)
(Honours), 2020

For 60 years, the University of Newcastle has helped students from all backgrounds succeed in education. Please donate to Shaping Futures Scholarships and change someone’s life.

newcastle.edu.au/shaping-futures



Welcome to the alumni community

**GRADUATION IS JUST THE BEGINNING.
NO MATTER WHERE YOUR CAREER TAKES YOU,
WE ARE HERE FOR YOU EVERY STEP OF THE WAY.**

Take advantage of your exclusive benefits:

- Enhance your personal and professional growth through our THRIVE Recent Graduate Program
- Give back with impact through our volunteering programs
- Be mentored by other inspiring alumni
- Advance your career with postgraduate study
- Access career support
- Connect with our local and global alumni networks

Look ahead with confidence, knowing that you'll always be a part of the University of Newcastle.

For 60 years, we have nurtured and stood behind the innovators, the pioneers and the changemakers bringing new ideas and thinking to the world.

Today, we still proudly take on our role of preparing our region for the future.

UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE



YEARS
OF LOOKING AHEAD



What's next?

WE'RE STILL HERE TO SUPPORT YOUR CAREER

As a graduate of the University of Newcastle, you continue to have access to our career services, including job searching through CareerHub.

Visit us online or in person to:

- Find out more about job opportunities
- Get help with your job applications including creating a professional resume
- Practise and develop your interview skills
- Discuss your career goals
- Learn more about building your employability.

Visit The Careers Service: Central Coast and Newcastle campuses or online.

Phone us: (02) 4921 5588

Ask a question: careerhub.newcastle.edu.au/s/careerhub/questions

newcastle.edu.au/careers

Have your say

COMPLETE THE GRADUATE OUTCOMES SURVEY FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN \$1,000!

Don't miss your chance to share your feedback and help shape the future of higher education in Australia.

gos.edu.au



CONGRATS GRADUATES

**CELEBRATE
YOUR
SUCCESS**



**THE
SHOP.**

Graduation gifts, flowers
and official merchandise.
shop.newcastle.edu.au

