

Frequently Asked Questions
about
GSAS Convocation, Columbia University Commencement,
and
The Celebration for the Classes of 2020 and 2021



Please note that participating in Convocation and Commencement does NOT constitute conferral of a Columbia degree. (See [degree requirements](#).)

Q:	Will GSAS Convocation, Columbia University Commencement and the Columbia University Celebration for the Classes of 2020 and 2021 be held in person?
A:	Yes
Q:	What are the dates?
A:	<p>The Thirty-sixth Doctoral Convocation Ceremony of the Columbia University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Date: Sunday, May 15, 2022 Time: 12:00 p.m.</p> <p>The Twenty-second Master's Convocation Ceremony of the Columbia University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Date: Sunday, May 15, 2022 Time: 2:45 p.m.</p> <p>The Columbia University Commencement ceremony of the 268th academic year Date: Wednesday, May 19, 2022 Time: 10:30 a.m.</p> <p>The Celebration for the Classes of 2020 and 2021 Date: Thursday, May 19, 2022 Time: 9:00-10:30 a.m.</p>
Q:	Where will GSAS Convocation, Columbia University Commencement and the Columbia University Celebration for the Classes of 2020 and 2021 be held?
A:	Outdoors under a tent on the South Lawn of the Morningside campus.
Q:	Do these events take place rain or shine?
A:	Yes
Q:	What is Columbia University Commencement?
A:	Columbia University Commencement is a University-wide event on May 18, 2022, for all 2022 graduates from across Columbia, presided over by President Bollinger. Schools are assigned areas in which to sit on and around Low Plaza,

	<p>and graduates wear regalia but do not walk across the stage. Here is a video of the 2019 Commencement.</p> <p>You will receive an email on or after April 13, 2022, with additional information on how to register tickets for your guests for University Commencement.</p>
Q:	What is GSAS Doctoral Convocation?
A:	<p>GSAS Doctoral Convocation is a ceremony on Sunday, May 15, 2022, which celebrates the accomplishments of all PhD candidates in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. This ceremony is for doctoral graduates only, and doctoral graduates are welcome to participate in GSAS Convocation as well as any class day their home school may hold. GSAS Dean Alonso is the Master of Ceremonies for Convocation, and each graduate has an opportunity to walk across the stage. Doctoral Convocation will last approximately 75 minutes. Here is a video of the 2019 Doctoral Convocation.</p> <p>You will receive an email on or after April 13, 2022, with additional information on how to register tickets for your guests for Convocation.</p>
Q:	What is GSAS Master's Convocation?
A:	<p>GSAS Master's Convocation is a ceremony on Sunday, May 15, 2022, which celebrates the accomplishments of all Master's candidates in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. The ceremony is for GSAS Master's graduates only. GSAS Dean Alonso is the Master of Ceremonies for Convocation, and each graduate has an opportunity to walk across the stage in regalia. Master's Convocation will last approximately 90 minutes. Here is a video of the 2019 Master's Convocation.</p> <p>You will receive an email on or after April 13, 2022, with additional information on how to register tickets for your guests for Convocation.</p>
Q:	What is the Columbia University Celebration for the Classes of 2020 and 2021?
A:	<p>President Bollinger recently announced that Columbia will recognize the Classes of 2020 and 2021 on Thursday, May 19, 2022, at the in-person Celebration for the Columbia University Classes of 2020 and 2021 modeled on University Commencement, a Columbia-wide ceremony in which all of the University's schools participate and individual graduates are not presented by name.</p> <p>You will receive an email on or after April 11, 2022, with additional information on how to register tickets for your guests for University Commencement.</p>
Q:	Are there videos of past events?
A:	<p>GSAS Doctoral Convocation Here is a video of the 2019 Doctoral Convocation.</p> <p>GSAS Master's Convocation Here is a video of the 2019 Master's Convocation.</p>

	<p>Columbia University Commencement Here is a video of the 2019 Commencement.</p> <p>Columbia University Celebration for the Classes of 2020 and 2021 As this event has never taken place before, there is no video. The Celebration will be similar to, but an abbreviated version of, Columbia University Commencement. For example, there will be no awarding of University Medals or Honorary Degrees at the Celebration. Here is a video of the 2019 Commencement.</p>
Q:	Who will be the speaker at University Commencement?
A:	Lee C. Bollinger, Columbia University's 19th president and Seth Low Professor of the University
Q:	Who will be the speaker at GSAS Doctoral Convocation?
A:	David Scott, Ruth and William Lubic Professor and chair of the Columbia Department of Anthropology
Q:	Who will be the speaker at GSAS Master's Convocation?
A:	Adam Tooze, Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Professor of History at Columbia University
Q:	Who will be the speaker at the University Celebration for the Classes of 2020 and 2021?
A:	Lee C. Bollinger, Columbia University's 19th president and Seth Low Professor of the University
Q:	Will there be a student speaker at Doctoral Convocation?
A:	No. We only have the South Lawn for a discrete period of time, and we have chosen to prioritize inviting alumni from 2020 and 2021 to cross the stage, which we expect to almost double the amount of time allotted to stage-crossings.
Q:	Will there be a student speaker at Master's Convocation?
A:	No. We only have the South Lawn for a discrete period of time, and we have chosen to prioritize inviting alumni from 2020 and 2021 to cross the stage, which we expect to almost double the amount of time allotted to stage-crossings.
Q:	Is there a website for Columbia University Commencement?
A:	https://commencement.columbia.edu
Q:	Is there a website for Convocation?
A:	https://gsas.columbia.edu/content/convocation
Q:	Is there a website for the Columbia University Celebration for the Classes of 2020 and 2021?
A:	https://commencement.columbia.edu/content/Classes2020and2021

Q:	How will I receive my diploma?
A:	Diplomas will be mailed following graduation to the "Diploma (DP) Address" that is on file, based on each graduate's degree conferral date. Verify or update your DP address on Student Services Online (SSOL) . Please contact diplomas@columbia.edu with any additional questions.
Q:	Whom can I contact for more information about Convocation?
A:	Erin Hussein gsas-convocation@columbia.edu (212) 854-6728
Q:	Whom can I contact for more information about Commencement?
A:	University Commencement Office commencement@columbia.edu (212) 854-1753
Q:	Whom can I contact for more information about the Celebration for the Classes of 2020 and 2021?
A:	University Commencement Office commencement@columbia.edu (212) 854-1753
Q:	Is there an FAQ for Columbia University Commencement?
A:	https://commencement.columbia.edu/content/faqs
Q:	What is the COVID policy?
A:	Please review the information here: https://commencement.columbia.edu/content/announcements
Q:	How can I obtain tickets?
A:	<p>Register for tickets for your guests for Convocation, University Commencement, and the Celebration for the Classes of 2020 and 2021 through the University Ticketing site.</p> <p>Your username is likely your UNI email address, unless you have indicated that an alternate address was preferred for graduation communications.</p> <p>Graduate Tickets: All graduating students will need to register for their own ticket as proof to participate in University Commencement or the Celebration for the Classes of 2020 and 2021. Graduating students do NOT need a ticket for Convocation.</p> <p>Guests for Convocation, University Commencement, and the Celebration for the Classes of 2020 and 2021:</p>

	<p>Each guest aged 4 and up must be pre-registered for a ticket for all graduation-related events. Each event has a separate ticket.</p> <p>While there are no capacity restrictions for Convocation, the registration system will limit each graduate to six guest tickets, with an option to add yourself to a waitlist for up to six additional tickets.</p> <p>University Commencement and Celebration capacity is limited due to space constraints, and each graduate student will be allotted 2 tickets for their guests.</p>
Q:	How many tickets may I obtain for GSAS Convocation?
A:	Tickets are not required for graduates or alumni or for guests aged three and under. Tickets are required for all guests aged 4 and up. You will be able to request up to six guest tickets and join a waitlist for additional tickets. All tickets will be distributed electronically.
Q:	How many tickets may I obtain for Columbia University Commencement or the Columbia University Celebration for the Classes of 2020 and 2021?
A:	Tickets are required for all guests aged 4 and up. You will be able to request up to two guest tickets; this is a firm limit instituted by the University. All tickets will be distributed electronically.
Q:	Will I as a graduate need a ticket for myself?
A:	Tickets are not required for graduates for GSAS Convocation, but you must register for an E-ticket for Commencement or the Celebration.
Q:	May children attend any of the graduation events?
A:	<p>Yes, children of any age may attend, but children aged four and up need to have their own ticket.</p> <p>Please look here for some helpful information about bringing children to Commencement or the Celebration for the Classes of 2020 and 2021.</p> <p>It is possible for the child of a graduate to walk across the stage at GSAS Convocation with their graduating parent. If you plan to bring children to GSAS Convocation, please complete this questionnaire no later than 5:00 p.m. EDT on Monday, May 2, 2002; no child will be permitted to cross the stage without pre-registration.</p>
Q:	How can I obtain a letter to help me obtain a visa to return?
A:	Please email gsas-convocation@columbia.edu .
Q:	How can I obtain a letter to help my guest obtain a visa to attend?
A:	Please email gsas-convocation@columbia.edu .
Q:	What are the guidelines for smaller gatherings?

A:	<p>For the small, program based gatherings that are taking place around the Commencement time frame, we are reminding event organizers that it is critical that any external guests in attendance will need to comply with the visitor guidelines of meeting full vaccination requirement, they must share and collect their health attestation form and verify their vaccine card on-site. Here is the link for more information on that https://covid19.columbia.edu/content/visitor-guidelines-spring-2022 and here are the health screening forms in English and in Spanish.</p>
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Please see below for specific information based on degree and cohort.

		PhD alumni October 2019 through June 2021	MA alumni October 2019 through June 2021	PhD candidate from October 2021 through May 2022	MA candidate October 2021 through May 2022
Q:	Am I eligible to participate in GSAS Doctoral Convocation on Sunday, May 15?	Yes, if your degree was conferred from October 2019 through June 2021	No	Yes, if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • your PhD was already conferred in October 2021 or February 2022, • you have deposited by the April 22, 2022, deposit deadline, or • you are able to deposit by Friday, October 14, 2022, the deposit deadline for the October 2022 conferral 	No
Q:	Am I eligible to participate in GSAS Master's Convocation on Sunday, May 15?	No	Yes, if your degree was conferred from October 2019 through June 2021	No	Yes, if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • your MA degree was already conferred in October 2021 or February 2022, • you expect your MA degree to be conferred in May 2022 and you have filed the mandatory Application for the MA Degree with the Office of the University Registrar, or • you expect your MA degree to be conferred in October 2022 and you have completed Participation Petition form by March 25, 2022, which has been approved by your program director. Please note: some programs do not permit October conferees to participate in graduation exercises in the prior May.

Q:	Am I eligible to participate in Columbia University Commencement on Wednesday, May 18, 2022?	No	No	Yes, if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • your PhD was already conferred in October 2021 or February 2022, • you have deposited by the April 22, 2022, deposit deadline, or • you are able to deposit by Friday, October 14, 2022, the deposit deadline for the October 2022 conferral 	Yes, if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • your MA degree was already conferred in October 2021 or February 2022, • you expect your MA degree to be conferred in May 2022 and you have filed the mandatory Application for the MA Degree with the Office of the University Registrar, or • you expect your MA degree to be conferred in October 2022 and you have completed Participation Petition form by March 25, 2022, which has been approved by your program director. Please note: some programs do not permit October conferees to participate in graduation exercises in the prior May.
Q:	Am I eligible to participate in Columbia University Celebration for the Classes of 2020 and 2021 on Thursday, May 19, 2022?	Yes, if your degree was conferred from October 2019 through June 2021	Yes, if your degree was conferred from October 2019 through June 2021	No	No
Q:	How many tickets can I obtain?	<p>Tickets are required for guests aged 4 and up. All tickets will be distributed electronically.</p> <p>For Convocation you will be able to obtain up to six tickets and join a waitlist for additional tickets.</p> <p>For the Celebration you will be able to request up to two guest tickets. This limit is set by the University and is firm.</p>	<p>Tickets are required for guests aged 4 and up. All tickets will be distributed electronically.</p> <p>For Convocation you will be able to obtain up to six tickets and join a waitlist for additional tickets.</p> <p>For the Celebration you will be able to request up to two guest tickets. This limit is set by the University and is firm.</p>	<p>Tickets are required for guests aged 4 and up. All tickets will be distributed electronically.</p> <p>For Convocation you will be able to obtain up to six tickets and join a waitlist for additional tickets.</p> <p>For Commencement you will be able to request up to two guest tickets. This limit is set by the University and is firm.</p>	<p>Tickets are required for guests aged 4 and up. All tickets will be distributed electronically.</p> <p>For Convocation you will be able to obtain up to six tickets and join a waitlist for additional tickets.</p> <p>For Commencement you will be able to request up to two guest tickets. This limit is set by the University and is firm.</p>
Q:	What time should I arrive for Convocation	Graduates arrive by 11:30 a.m.	Graduates arrive by 2:15 p.m.	Graduates arrive by 11:30 a.m.	Graduates arrive by 2:15 p.m.
Q:	Where should I arrive for Convocation	Lerner Hall through the Broadway entrance at 2920 Broadway			

Q:	What time should my guests arrive for Convocation	Gates open at 11:30 a.m. The Procession starts promptly at 12:00 p.m.	Gates open at 2:15 p.m. The Procession starts promptly at 2:45 p.m.	Gates open at 11:30 a.m. The Procession starts promptly at 12:00 p.m.	Gates open at 2:15 p.m. The Procession starts promptly at 2:45 p.m.
Q:	Where should my guests arrive for Convocation	Guests line up on 114th Street between Broadway and Amsterdam and enter through one of two gates leading into the campus's South Lawn. Guests are strongly discouraged from arriving too early because most campus entries remain closed while other ceremonies are underway.			
Q:	What time should I arrive for Commencement or Celebration for the Classes of 2020 and 2021	You will receive this information from the Commencement Office.			
Q:	What time should my guests arrive for Commencement or Celebration for the Classes of 2020 and 2021	Gates open about 40 minutes prior to the start time of the Celebration ceremony. Guests are strongly discouraged from arriving too early because most campus entries remain closed while other ceremonies are underway.			
Q:	Where should my guests arrive for Commencement or Celebration for the Classes of 2020 and 2021	Guests line up on 114th Street between Broadway and Amsterdam and enter through one of two gates leading into the campus's South Lawn.			
Q:	Regalia for Convocation	Either full regalia or a tam and commemorative stole is required for PhD alumni; regrettably, the Bookstore is not able to take orders to rent full regalia, but you may order a tam and commemorative stole online . The Bookstore is able to take orders to purchase full regalia.	Full regalia is required for Master's alumni participating in GSAS Convocation; you may order Master's regalia online .	Full regalia is required for PhD candidates participating in GSAS Convocation; you may order PhD regalia online .	Full regalia is required for Master's candidates participating in GSAS Convocation; you may order Master's regalia online .

Q:	Regalia for Commencement	N/A	N/A	Full regalia is required for PhD candidates participating in University Commencement; you may order regalia through the Bookstore .	Full regalia is required for Master's candidates participating in University Commencement; you may order Master's regalia online .
Q:	Regalia for the Celebration	Either full regalia or a tam is required for PhD alumni participating in the University Celebration; you may order a tam online .	A Columbia mortarboard is required for Master's alumni participating in the University Celebration; you may order a Columbia mortarboard online .	N/A	N/A
Q:	How can I order regalia?	Order a tam or a tam and commemorative stole online or purchase full regalia through the Bookstore .	Purchase Master's Regalia through the Bookstore or online . Order doctoral regalia through the Bookstore .		
Q:	What are the next steps?	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Purchase a tam (if participating in the Celebration only) or a tam and commemorative stole (if participating in Convocation) online or purchase full regalia through the Bookstore.2. Register for a graduate ticket for the University Celebration through the University Ticketing site.1. Arrive at the Boone Arledge Auditorium, where you will Pick Up Your Name Card between 11:00 and 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 15th. Procession begins promptly at 12 Noon.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">2. Purchase a Columbia mortarboard (if participating in the Celebration only) or full Master's regalia (if participating in Convocation) online or at the Bookstore.3. Register for a graduate ticket for the University Celebration through the University Ticketing site.4. Arrive at the Boone Arledge Auditorium, where you will Pick Up Your Name Card between 1:45 and 2:15 p.m. on Sunday, May 15th. Procession begins promptly at 2:45 p.m.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Order Regalia through the Columbia Bookstore or online2. Register for a graduate ticket for University Commencement through the University Ticketing site.3. Pick Up Your Name Card in 107 Low Library between 8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on May 11, 12, or 13.4. Arrive at the Boone Arledge Auditorium between 11:00 and 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 15th. Procession begins promptly at 12 Noon.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Order Regalia through the Columbia Bookstore or online2. Register for a graduate ticket for University Commencement through the University Ticketing site.3. Pick Up Your Name Card in 107 Low Library between 8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on May 11, 12, or 13.5. Arrive at the Boone Arledge Auditorium between 1:45 and 2:15 p.m. on Sunday, May 15th. Procession begins promptly at 2:45 p.m.