

Dear HGSE Students,

*(Note: This message is being sent to all HGSE students. Future communications regarding Commencement will be shared with those students who have graduated in November 2022 or are expecting to graduate in March 2023 or May 2023. All students can access information about Commencement via the [Office of Student Affairs website](#).)*

We hope that you are enjoying the end of the Fall semester and are excited for Winter Break. As we head into the break, I am writing to share some preliminary information about the Harvard and HGSE Commencement Exercises scheduled to take place in May 2023. Please feel free to share this information with any loved ones who may be planning to attend the celebrations. Also note that this information is currently tentative and subject to change.

**Tentative Schedule of Events** (<https://osa.gse.harvard.edu/celebration-dates-and-descriptions>)

**Monday, May 22 through Wednesday, May 24**

Various University-wide Affinity Graduation Ceremonies  
Specific dates, times, and locations will be shared as they are confirmed

These ceremonies include:

- University-wide Lavender Graduation for LGBTQIA+ students
- University-wide Asian-American, Pacific Islander, Asian student Graduation
- University-wide Black Graduation
- University-wide Latinx Graduation
- University-wide First-Gen Graduation
- HUNAP Indigenous Student Graduation

**Wednesday, May 24**

***Ph.D. Robing Ceremony***

Time and location TBD

***Graduating Doctoral Student Brunch***

Time and location TBD

***Ed.L.D. Graduation Celebration***

Time and location TBD

***HGSE Convocation***

3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Radcliffe Yard

***HGSE Block Party***

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Appian Way

**Thursday, May 25**

### ***University Morning Exercises***

9:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. ET

Tercentenary Theater, Harvard Yard

***\*This is a ticketed event\****

### ***HGSE Presentation of Diplomas and Certificates***

1:00 - 3:30 p.m. ET

Radcliffe Yard

***\*This is a ticketed event\****

### **Tickets**

Each graduating student will receive 2 tickets to the University Morning Exercises and 3 tickets to the HGSE Presentation of Diplomas and Certificates. For complete information about tickets and ticketing policies, see the "[Tickets](#)" page of the Office of Student Affairs website.

### **Visa Support Letters**

HGSE is pleased to be able to provide visa support letters for guests who will be travelling internationally to enjoy the ceremonies. Submit a request for a visa support letter. This letter is only to support your application. It is not to assist you in getting an appointment. Around the world we are still seeing many consulates and embassies with reduced capacities to process nonimmigrant visas due to the pandemic. Our best advice is to continue checking multiple times a day for appointments. If you have questions about your specific situation, reach out to [Andrea Le](#).

### **Student Speaker Opportunities**

During the Spring semester students will hear more about opportunities to speak at a number of the ceremonies taking place during Commencement Week. Opportunities include delivering the Graduate Student Oration at the University Morning Exercises, speaking as the HGSE Student Speaker at the HGSE Convocation Ceremony, and various opportunities to speak at the University Affinity Graduation Ceremonies. More information about how to apply for these roles will be shared in the coming months.

### **Sign Up to Serve on the Affinity Graduation Ceremony Student Advisory Committee**

The Harvard Office for Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging partners with student leaders and key administrative partners to host six affinity graduation ceremonies. These student-led, staff supported events aim to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of graduates from historically marginalized and underrepresented communities. To facilitate the planning of affinity graduation celebrations, OEDIB will convene student affinity graduation advisory committees. Affinity celebrations are open to all Harvard graduates. If you are interested in volunteering for a student advisory committee, please complete the [sign up form](#) by Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>.

Best of luck as you finish the Fall Semester!

Kevin Boehm

Director of Student Affairs