

HARVARD



GRADUATE SCHOOL  
OF EDUCATION

*Updated January 24, 2022*

**Please note:** Details will be solidified over the coming months, and this document will be updated with new information as it becomes available.

## **Commencement Celebration for the Classes of 2020 and 2021 FAQs**

### **1. When will the University Celebration take place?**

Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup> at 8 a.m. ET. The ceremony is scheduled to run for about 2 hours.

### **2. When will the HGSE Celebration take place?**

Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup> at a time to be determined.

### **3. What will happen during the HGSE Celebration?**

More information to come.

### **4. Will there be separate Celebrations for the Classes of 2020 and 2021?**

The University Celebration will honor the graduates from the Classes of 2020 and 2021 in a joint ceremony. HGSE is still exploring if there will be one celebration for graduates from both classes or if there will be separate celebrations. Much of that decision will depend on the number of graduates who intend to come to campus for the celebrations.

### **5. Will I be able to meet the faculty and staff that I have interacted with virtually during the HGSE Celebration?**

More information to come.

### **6. Is there financial aid available for me to come to Cambridge for these events?**

The University is committed to making the celebration financially feasible for all members of the Classes of 2020 and 2021. While there will be no charge for registration, provided meals, or campus housing for the graduates of these classes, we know that for some graduates the cost of traveling to campus may be a hardship. In those situations, financial assistance will be available. Requests for financial assistance can be made at the time of registration, which will open in early 2022. All requests will be considered and will remain confidential.

### **7. Will accommodations be provided if I am travelling from out-of-town?**

The University will endeavor to house all those *graduates* who request it, but will be limited by availability. You will be able to register for campus accommodations when registration for the events opens in early 2022 and more information will be posted in the coming months.

### **8. Will I need a cap and gown to participate in these ceremonies?**

Yes. More information about ordering details, costs, and distribution will be shared in the coming weeks.

**9. Do I need to register to attend either of the Celebrations?**

Yes. Registration is required for each of the Celebrations. More information about registration will be shared in early 2022.

**10. Will tickets be required?**

Yes. Each graduate will receive 3 tickets to the University Celebration so that family and friends can take part in celebrating the hard work and perseverance of our graduates. More details on the number of tickets available for the HGSE Ceremony will be shared in the coming weeks.

**11. How many tickets will I receive for each ceremony?**

Each graduate will receive 3 tickets to the University Celebration so that family and friends can take part in celebrating the hard work and perseverance of our graduates. More details on the number of tickets available for the HGSE Ceremony will be shared in the coming weeks.

**12. How will you ensure the safety of guests and graduates?**

All visitors to campus including both graduates and their families and guests, should be aware of the University policies in place at the time of their visit. [COVID-19 Safety Awareness Training: Protection/Prevention Practices](#) provides current guidance and safety practices. The university understands the need to communicate guidelines and expectations with graduates and families as far in advance as possible.

**13. Will guests and graduates need to be fully vaccinated against COVID? Will a negative test result be sufficient to attend?**

Currently the University is requiring those coming to campus for Harvard-sponsored events and activities to be fully vaccinated. Graduates and their guests should plan accordingly.

**14. Can I pick up a Harvard ID Card when I come to campus?**

Harvard ID Card Services is not able to print ID cards for alumni. Only currently enrolled students are eligible for HUID cards.

**15. I am located outside of the U.S. Will HGSE provide support to international alumni to receive tourist (B2) visas or an ESTA to travel to the U.S.?**

HGSE will provide letters of support for alumni eligible to travel to the U.S. for the Celebrations. If you have family members joining you, please submit a separate [form](#) for each person.

**16. How long can I remain in the U.S. on a B2 visa or ESTA?**

You must check the validity of your B2 visa. You may remain in the U.S. as a B2 for up to 180 days. If you are eligible to enter the U.S. using ESTA, you may remain in the U.S. for up to 90 days.

**17. What will happen if I am unable to travel internationally due to restrictions caused by the pandemic?**

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to be a global threat. We recommend that you take the pandemic into consideration when making any travel arrangements. Please make sure to thoroughly understand the cancellation policies on any travel or accommodation bookings before purchasing. In addition, please keep in mind that U.S. Embassies and Consulates worldwide may be closed or operating at reduced capacities. If you are in need of a tourist visa, please check the U.S. Embassy or Consulate website frequently for updates and information.

**18. Will any information about accommodations be shared for family members?**

The University is currently working to negotiate group rates at several area hotels and will share that information with graduates in the coming weeks. In addition, graduates, families, and guests can find a helpful [list of area hotels](#) on Harvard's Commencement website.

**19. I am not able to make it to Cambridge for these Celebrations. Can I participate in another Commencement at a later date?**

There is not an alternative date for those who cannot make the ceremony this spring. The University considered a number of complex issues in determining what and when to have a celebration for the classes of 2020 and 2021, and the announcement by President Bacow reflects the decision that was made. Each commencement is unique to the graduating class, so we are unable to allow past graduates to register for a future ceremony.

**20. Who should I contact if I still have questions?**

Questions about the Celebration for the Classes of 2020 and 2021 should be directed to [commencement2020\\_2021@gse.harvard.edu](mailto:commencement2020_2021@gse.harvard.edu).