

Development of Academic Dress in Kingston University: A University for the Twenty-First Century

By Alice Hynes

1. Introduction

As the Academic Registrar at Kingston Polytechnic in the 1990s, I worked on its transition from Polytechnic to University and its gaining of degree-awarding powers. As such I was closely involved in the decision-making and practical implementation of the first academic dress for Kingston University. This study describes the rationale for the academic dress created and seeks to check how far the initial expectations have been fulfilled, together with comparing Kingston with its contemporary peers. Twenty-five years on from those original decisions, a number of issues concerning the academic dress of Kingston's functionaries and academic dress in the twenty-first century are raised for later exploration.

2. Methodology

The approach has been to gather material from Kingston University archives and from the personal recollections and reflections of those involved. With a culture whose structure relies less on committees than many universities', Kingston did not retain extensive material, especially in terms of correspondence, from that time. It makes comparisons with actions taken on academic dress at other universities created at the same time, and with the traditions set by earlier generations. The study also considers relevant publications on the development of academic dress—some of which were used at the time to inform Kingston's decisions. It takes as comparative data the descriptions of academic dress in the definitive material from George Shaw,¹ referred to as *Shaw 2*; and as further updated in 2011, referred to as *Shaw 3*.² It also uses the more detailed analysis on academic dress in seventeen other universities—in particular at the University of Hertfordshire and the University of Westminster—as published in the *Transactions* or as a separate booklet.

3. Historic context of academic dress

Victorian/nineteenth- and twentieth-century development

3.1 The historical context of academic dress is well known to readers of *Transactions*, who will be aware, as this study unfolds, of the breaks with traditions in Kingston's academic dress. By the time Wood was writing in 1875, there were twelve UK institutions

¹ G. W. Shaw, *Academical Dress of British and Irish Universities* (Chichester: Phillimore, 1995), referred to hereafter as *Shaw 2*, pp. 137–38.

² N. Groves (ed.), *Shaw's Academical Dress of Great Britain and Ireland*, 3rd edn (London: Burgon Society, 2011), referred to hereafter as *Shaw 3*, pp. 234–36.

with academic dress.³ He identified a firm ecclesiastical tradition in the regular wearing of academic hoods. (See Fig. 1.)

The clergy generally wear hoods over their surplices during their public ministrations, as sanctioned by the Canons. It must be remembered, however, that the hood is not an Ecclesiastical, but an Academical vestment, intended to denote the University and degree of the wearer if a Graduate; or the Theological College of a Non-Graduate Clergyman. Hoods are of various shapes, sizes, and colours; it is chiefly by their colour that they may be distinguished. ... but it was not until the last 40 or 50 years that their use became general. There are many aged clergymen who never appear in a hood in church.⁴

Almond, in *Gowns and Gossip*, 1925, was raising questions about tradition versus innovation in academic dress development.

Both gown and hood [...] are least modified in their outline. The *Encyclopaedia Britannica* article on Academic Dress refers to this as a characteristic of our race, viz. 'maintaining some semblance of the old while changing the system' and then goes on to speak of 'arbitrary ideas of the Robemakers which have decided and created for the modern Universities some of the curious productions of their art.'⁵

3.2 The further pronouncements on academic dress development by Dr Charles A. H. Franklyn expand further complaint against the variety. He passionately argued for order among the chaos of the arrival of new universities in the 1960s. Many of these, rather than seek his advice, chose to seek innovation; in some cases, using fashion designers such as Cecil Beaton to find a distinctive look. In Franklyn's view, 'Anyone who has read the preceding pages cannot fail to have been struck by the general chaos, lack of system, contradictions, freaks and absurdities running throughout the whole field of academical dress.'⁶ And in his conclusion:

As our Universities are unlikely ever to agree to anything like uniformity, the other alternative would be for a national or standard system of academical dress to be designed which any graduate would be entitled to wear as an alternative to his own university's local system of academical dress, if he chose. In many cases the national robes would be far finer than the university's: this applies especially to Sussex whose robes are so dreadful and so freakish that many of her *alumni* detest them: those of Aston, Birmingham are frightful too, and the so-called hood has no liripipe!⁷

Writing about his search for information on Open University academic dress, Franklyn reported in Haycraft, 'Repeated written requests for details of the hoods have met with no response and it is understood that nothing has been decided yet. A complete system could be designed in one hour.⁸

³ These were Oxford, Cambridge, Durham, and London in England plus the degree-awarding powers of the Archbishop of Canterbury; Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and St Andrews in Scotland, Lampeter in Wales, and Dublin and Queen's in Ireland.

⁴ T. W. Wood, *Ecclesiastical and Academical Colours* (London and Derby: Bemrose & Sons, [1875]), Part II, pp. 17, 41.

⁵ A. G. Almond, *Gowns and Gossip* (Cambridge: Bowes & Bowes, 1925), pp. 6–7.

⁶ C. A. H. Franklyn, *Academical Dress from the Middle Ages to the Present Day, Including Lambeth Degrees* (Lewes: printed privately by W. E. Baxter, Ltd, 1970), p. 236.

⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 214.

⁸ F. W. Haycraft, *The Degrees and Hoods of the World's Universities and Colleges*, 5th edn, rev. by F. R. S. Rogers, C. A. H. Franklyn, G. W. Shaw and H. A. Boyd (Lewes: privately printed by W. E.

Looking at the work that took place during 1992–93 the development of the academic dress was a more complex process. Franklyn was correct, however, that it could be accomplished with dispatch given the numbers of ‘modern’ universities whose academic dress was created in around six months in 1992–93.

3.3 The hood has been a primary way of distinguishing different thresholds of award and its shape in early years distinctive to the university concerned, but not for Kingston. As Shaw remarks in the first reference to Kingston, ‘This university has decided to use the style of gown worn by Continental universities. This does not apply to the hats and hoods, which are still of British design!’⁹

Groves in *Shaw 3* explains:

There are only two hoods used by this University: one for all earned awards, and one for awards made ‘honoris causa’. The difference in degree is marked by the styles of the gown, which have continental origins. The ‘university blue’ is a bright turquoise colour.¹⁰

In the early 2000s the name adjusted to *Kingston University, London* for marketing purposes. In the Burgon Society archive wardrobe are three examples of Kingston University robes:

- a black master’s award gown with characteristic ‘university blue’ facing with four silk pleats and gathering at the shoulder and back to distinguish; this example has two different blues so it may be a sample or colours have differentially faded;
- a grey and blue hood, indicated in the record as DSc, being an example of the standard Kingston hood worn by all honorary award holders for doctorate or master’s, one of the aspects of the Kingston scheme which challenges the norms of academic dress in the way hoods are used;
- in July 2017 the first Vice-Chancellor of Kingston University donated his academic functionary robes to the Society. These comprise a black velvet Tudor bonnet and a black damask gown with ‘university blue’ pleats, white silk and silver braid facing.¹¹

4. Kingston University, London: Institute, College, Polytechnic and University *Brief history from Institute, College, Polytechnic to University*

4.1 The fuller account of the institution’s development is described in a monograph history by Professor Mike Gibson, held on Kingston’s website.¹² The foundations of the University began with Kingston Technical Institute which opened in 1899, although arguments can be made for workers’ educational activity in place since 1838. In 1926, it became Kingston Technical College and by 1930 the Kingston School of Art had left to be independent as Kingston College of Art alongside the Wimbledon College of Art. University of London ex-

Baxter, Ltd, 1972), p. 162.

⁹ *Shaw 2*, p. 137.

¹⁰ At p. 234. *Shaw 2* includes *Kingston University* and *Shaw 3 University of Kingston* although from its inception it has been *Kingston University*, which followed its previous name as *Kingston Polytechnic*.

¹¹ Further discussion of the functionary gowns including those for the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor is in preparation for future publication.

¹² Untitled history of Kingston University, online at <cdn.kingston.ac.uk/documents/aboutkingstonuniversity/factsandfigures/ourhistory/documents/history-of-kingston-text.pdf> [retrieved 3 May 2020].

ternal degrees were offered from 1931 at the Kingston Technical College—which would be the first time those who had studied at Kingston would be eligible to wear academic dress. Gipsy Hill College, which trained teachers, relocated to Kingston Hill in 1946. Kingston was recognized as a Regional College of Technology by the Ministry of Education in 1957 and in 1962 it divided to form the Kingston Further Education College and the Kingston College of Technology. In the mid-1960s, the College began offering a variety of degree-level programmes under the auspices of the newly created Council for National Academic Awards (CNAA).

Those successful graduates were able to wear a new, nationally applicable form of academic dress defined for the CNAA, alongside an expanding number of graduates across the nation in similar colleges. In 1970, the College of Technology merged with the College of Art to become Kingston Polytechnic. Five years later it incorporated Gipsy Hill College of Education, itself founded in 1917, establishing the College's faculty as Kingston's Division of Educational Studies.¹³

CNAA accreditation and gaining university status

4.2 Under the Further and Higher Education Act 1992, Kingston Polytechnic was granted university status by the Privy Council on 24 June 1992, which is designated as Foundation Day. It became Kingston University, with its authority to grant degrees as from 1 September 1992. As a consequence of securing those degree-awarding powers, it gained the capacity to define its own academic dress associated with the full range of academic awards that it conferred. Some polytechnics, such as the Polytechnic of Central London (which became the University of Westminster), had previously defined academic dress for some local awards they gave (i.e., not degrees) (see Paragraph 5.26); but this was not the case at Kingston. The first presentation ceremonies for those wearing Kingston academic dress took place in November 1992.

5. Why? How? and the Kingston design process

Academic dress at Kingston before University title

5.1 The practice of Kingston students wearing academic dress at presentation/ graduation ceremonies was taking place in the Polytechnic's premises in the 1980s using the dress defined by the CNAA. The institution saw clear value in the celebration of student success at these ceremonies which initially took place at the Penrhyn Road site (see Figs 2, 6a). In the competitive climate of the time, it was an affirmation of Kingston as part of the higher education/university community. Dr Bob Smith recalled,

My first award ceremonies were certainly held in the Penrhyn Road hall since I have a fond memory of guest Bernard Crick reading a piece from 'Three Men in a Boat', about the train driver at Waterloo who was not sure whether his train was going to Kingston. The three men plus dog started their boat trip from just below Kingston Bridge.

In the late 1980s ceremonies at faculty level moved to larger external venues such as the Fairfield Halls Croydon and the Barbican.

¹³ In British usage 'faculty' means 'academic department', not just 'teaching staff', as it usually does in North America.



Fig. 1. Foundation Day, 24 June 1992, with Rector of All Saints Church Kingston, Mayor and Borough Mace Bearer.



Fig. 2. Person in CNAA academic dress (yellow and turquoise hood) with Polytechnic Director Prof. Len Lawley in red Durham (Newcastle) PhD gown at graduation ceremony in Penrhyn Road.



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Fig. 3. Original Kingston logos from business cards and letter headings.



Reproduced with kind permission of Kingston University

Figs 4, 5. Royal Borough of Kingston Borough coat of arms and Kingston University coat of arms.



University Archives

Fig. 6a (left). Ivan Hannaford (right with beard) with Dr Richard Long (Dean of Science) in London PhD gown at graduation ceremony. Two CNAA hoods also visible.



Fig. 6b (right). Honorary master's gown worn by Ivan Hannaford.



University Graduation Archives

Fig. 7a. Use of Velcro on hood.



Fig. 7b. Graduation: Town Hall steps, showing doctorate and integrated master's degree and headwear.



Fig. 8. Graduation: Town Procession. Master's degree and doctorate.



Fig. 9. Mrs Lynne Newman, graduation 2018. MA robe showing pleats.

Process adopted for the design and development of Kingston academic dress

5.2 As noted in Section 4, with the FHE Act in 1992, Kingston Polytechnic was one of over forty higher education providers which were granted the status of university, with the right to grant their own degrees and as a consequence the ability to define their own distinctive academic dress. In spring/summer 1992, the Academic Board at the Polytechnic/University was taking a number of key decisions on the changes required for its new status, and established University Task Group to meet fortnightly and to oversee the process.¹⁴ The group was composed of Dr Bob Smith, the Director (Vice-Chancellor designate); Dr Bob Godfrey, the Deputy Director (Deputy Vice-Chancellor designate); Eric Lang, Polytechnic Secretary, Alice Hynes, the Academic Registrar, Dr Larry Roberts, Head of Academic Quality and Development; initially Bruce Durie then Trevor Thorne as Head of External Affairs. Particular attention was paid to setting up Kingston's own academic regulations and establishing the various academic awards which would be granted. Responsibility for these preparations was with the Validation Committee and a newly created Regulations and Awards Committee, set up in November 1992. A key document relating to the decisions on Academic dress was the Academic Board paper, AB 25 1991-92 (extracts provided in Sections 5 and 6 and Paragraph 7.1), and the conclusions then reached on it at the Academic Board in March 1992. The internal debate did not query whether to have academic dress for Kingston award holders, but rather sought to ensure it would have suitable and sufficient differentiation from other ex-polytechnics while securing itself within traditions. Kingston expected to build on its Polytechnic heritage and plan for a competitive future in an enlarged university sector.

5.3 The process of becoming a University had closely involved the Academic Registry, in particular, following earlier achievement of CNAAC accreditation, the establishment of Kingston's own academic regulations. Formal conferment of awards under Kingston's auspices in the Registry replaced processes previously controlled through the CNAAC. It was logical therefore that the work to establish the new academic dress and its regulation should also come under the Academic Registrar. The Information Services Manager, later the Head of External Affairs, was also closely involved. He had been leading the work on marketing and corporate image, taking forward work on the first University logo, the coat of arms and the June 1992 Foundation Day ceremonial. He was sympathetic to the position of academic dress as a part of the messaging about being a 'new' university in the 1990s. Reporting back to the Task Group, the main work of creating the academic dress therefore fell to the author as Academic Registrar and Trevor Thorne as the Information Services Manager and subsequently, Head of External Affairs.

5.4 It was also unexpectedly useful that Thorne was both a Fine Art graduate and had a retail background with considerable expertise in the clothing industry, particularly in garment manufacture and cloth production. Equally the author's MA in Medieval Studies with interests in the history of dress and its symbolism informed the process. There was also recognition that, with its own School of Fashion, it could be argued that there were others better qualified for the task of dress design, but in order to have a suitably neutral University-wide solution and one which had to be achieved quickly, it was decided that these two administrators should take forward the work centrally. However, that context of Kingston's significant reputation in fashion supported the desire for an academic dress which was not run-of-the-mill, had good cloth and a distinctive character. It is worth a comment that universities in the 1960s and the 2000s sought designs from fashion gurus

¹⁴ March 1992, p. 1.



Fig. 10. Staff waiting to process into graduation ceremony, showing Kingston honorary doctorate with tape far right and Kingston doctorate second on left; variety of hood shapes and doctorate robe 'reds'.



Fig. 11. Graduation: Town Procession, showing three Kingston doctorates, far left, middle and right, with four other doctoral gowns in different shades of red.



Fig. 12. Graduate on her way to graduation ceremony in a customized square cap.



Fig. 13. Award holder possibly of sub-degree diploma on her way to graduation ceremony wearing the wrong sleeve.

such as Cecil Beaton and Vivienne Westwood, including the so-called 'Dan Dare' hat and blue robes at East Anglia and Westwood's hat-less, coloured robes for King's College, London. Groves quotes the East Anglian Vice-Chancellor who 'saw degree days as "an attractive form of theatre" Why not call in a top theatrical designer?'¹⁵

5.5 At Kingston, the Academic Registrar sought to gather some underlying concepts from the academic community, giving some key parameters to define the academic dress. A set of questions accompanied by some suggested principles was presented to the Academic Board at its March meeting in 1992 (AB25, see Paragraph 5.2). The relationship with the robemaker was another key decision to be made (see Section 7). The Academic Board was given some summary background on the history of academic dress but with two internal leads there was no decision to seek further advice from an external expert nor to seek support from other universities, other than learning from their experience of their own appointed robemakers.

5.6 There was no awareness in 1992 of the existence of academic dress advisers; the Burgon Society itself was established only in 2000, although earlier editions of *Hoodata* had been circulated to an inner circle. Experts such as the Revd Philip Goff, academic consultant to Ede & Ravenscroft and the author of material on the University of London,¹⁶ were not consulted and Dr Charles A. H. Franklyn, who had advised Southampton and Hull, had died in 1982. However, some publications on academic dress were used as references during the process of identifying the options, such as those by Hargreaves-Mawdsley, Shaw's 1966 book, and in particular Smith.¹⁷ Section 3, above, also notes the views expressed on academic dress development by those working on new forms in the 1960s, comments which were probably just as applicable to this new expansion phase. In the background information in AB25¹⁸ comment was made on areas such as copyright and distinctiveness, which remain live topics to this day.

¹⁵ N. Groves, *The Academical Dress of the University of East Anglia* (London: Burgon Society, 2005), p. 5.

¹⁶ *University of London Academic Dress* (London: University of London Press, 1999).

¹⁷ W. N. Hargreaves-Mawdsley, *History of Academical Dress in Europe until the End of the Eighteenth Century* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1963); G. W. Shaw, *Academical Dress of British Universities* (Cambridge: Heffer, 1966); and in particular Hugh Smith, assisted by Kevin Sheard, *Academic Dress and Insignia of the World: Gowns, Hats, Chains of Office, Hoods, Rings, Medals and Other Degree Insignia of Universities and Other Institutions of Learning*, 3 vols (Cape Town: A. A. Balkema, 1970).

¹⁸ Background, p. 1.

Royal Assent is anticipated in April/May to the FE/HE Bill which will permit the Polytechnic to apply for designation as a University and for degree-awarding powers. The new University should have the power to regulate its own academic dress. Awards presented to some students at the Science or Human Sciences Presentation Ceremonies in October may be those of the Kingston University; University awards will definitely be presented at the Technology and Design ceremonies in early 1993. Some Honorary awards may be presented at a special ceremony in the Autumn term 1992.

There appears to be no copyright on the shape or colours of academic dress but clearly it is not to our advantage to have robes too close to those adopted by another institution. It is possible to make hoods distinctive by their shapes colours and structures. Simpler shapes and structures have been used for lower awards with richer fabrics and colour combinations denoting higher awards. Hoods can be partly or fully lined with contrasting colours and/or have coloured border strips.

According to writers on the subject the academic dress was resistant to change being early medieval in style up to the Reformation and partially Tudor since then; the other significant charac-

5.7 When it met on 2 March 1992, the Academic Board was invited to consider a number of questions presented in Paper AB25, which are noted below with the subsequent outcomes, also proposed eight key principles for adoption (see Paragraph 5.8).

Questions

How traditional or distinctive should Kingston's academic dress be for undergraduates given that if gowns as well as hoods are custom made students will be charged higher prices?

Conclusion was distinctive gowns but common caps and hoods (see paragraphs 5.16–5.24).

How traditional or distinctive should Kingston's academic dress be for postgraduates given a European future? (eg. Sussex PhD style versus Oxbridge)

Conclusion was distinctive gowns and colours but common caps and hoods (see paragraphs 5.16–5.24).

Does the institution wish to establish a tradition of doctorates receiving a hood from the visitor presenting award? If so this would affect the shape of hood and style of dress.

Conclusion was specific hood for honorary award holders (see paragraphs 6.11, 6.12).

Given the multicultural student population/equal opportunities policy should dress definitions include the option for female dress e.g., the women's Oxford soft hat rather than mortar board; respond to dress requirements for female Islamic students or define a black headdress for Sikh students?

Conclusion was common definitions without gender specific dress nor any specification on other traditional ethnic dress (see paragraphs 6.14, 6.15).

Should there be a distinction between robes worn by those receiving an Honorary award as against those receiving an award after a taught course or research?

Conclusion was that the same shapes were adopted but there was differentiation via how colours used and decoration on the hood (see paragraphs 6.11, 6.12).

If the institution remains holding its ceremonies outside the peak in July should discounts be negotiated?

Conclusion at the time was no change in timing but in later years Kingston moved to summer ceremonies (see also Section 7, on robemakers).

Should the institution define other academic dress in normal daily use and sell it eg. scarves, ties and badges, brooches etc.?

Conclusion was to develop merchandise (see paragraph 6.17).

One of the main complaints about wearing hoods is how they are pinned on. Could we design an original Kingston clasp?

Conclusion was never achieved ref Kingston clasp although progress made as by 2016/17 some solutions were in place (see paragraph 6.15).

Should one item of dress be designed to be very 1990's in style? A waistcoat? A necktie or (?) In order to emphasize that we are a new University perhaps something that could be restyled on a 'quinquennial' basis to affirm our commitment to development and our positive response to change.

Conclusion was not to take this forward (but see paragraphs 6.16, 6.17).

What consultation should take place with students regarding proposals for academic dress?

Conclusion was to consult (see paragraph 5.22).

teristic was its ecclesiastical roots. The purpose of regulating dress today relates mainly to the ritual of the presentation ceremonies themselves and the semiotic nature of the robes as symbols of the institution. In the past defined academic dress related to everyday wear often produced by the funders or benefactors of the scholars concerned, almost an occupational uniform. A remnant of this could be seen in the use of a 'college scarf'.

5.8 The eight principles articulated in AB25 proposed the following, the implications of which are considered further below and in Section 6.

1. Kingston University awards should have suitable academic dress associated with them and such dress should be worn on appropriate ceremonial occasions.
2. For Awards of other bodies eg. BTEC, GRSC where academic dress exists it should be worn in preference to Kingston colours however if no such dress exists a simple Kingston academic dress should be worn for Postgraduate and post-experience qualifications.
3. Differentiated academic dress should be created for the following awards :
 - a. Certificates, Diplomas and awards of other bodies having no academic dress of their own
 - b. Degrees — Honours and Non-Honours
 - c. Postgraduate and post-experience qualifications
 - d. Masters degrees
 - e. MPhil
 - f. PhD
 - g. Higher doctorate.
4. Academic dress and/or regalia should be created for the following functionaries of Kingston University:
 - a. Honorary Fellows
 - b. Visiting Professors, Professors wishing to wear Kingston dress rather than that of the institution whose qualifications they hold
 - c. Visitors, e.g. for use by speakers at Presentation Ceremonies
 - d. University officers (those holding senior posts) wishing to wear Kingston dress rather than of the institution whose qualifications they hold
 - e. The Director or by any other name
 - f. The Chairman of the Board of Governors.
5. Honorary degree holders should be eligible to wear the same academic dress as those holding assessed awards.
6. The Kingston University colours should be those of the corporate image, i.e.

Blue	Pantone 298
Grey	Pantone Cool Grey 6U
Scarlet	Pantone
Black	Pantone
White	Pantone
7. Materials should be brocades, embossed silks.
8. The academic dress should be designed such that it may be worn comfortably by various sizes of person and be sensitive to any Equal Opportunities Policy adopted by the Kingston University.

It has not yet been possible to check the Academic Board meeting minutes but the first Vice-Chancellor, Dr Bob Smith, recalls that “The “Kingston blue” emphasized continuity and I wanted fairly simple academic dress as right for a strongly vocational institution.” (See Appendix 9.1 for the total scheme.)

Rationale for design and development of Kingston’s academic dress

5.9 Some of the newer universities which were established at that time were proud of their CNAAs heritage and perhaps wanted to make a differentiation between themselves and the more traditional university in their town or city. Others sought to demonstrate that they

had now joined the older university community by adopting more traditional forms. In choosing their academic dress most sought a distinctive colour palate. Many retained the hood shape used by the CNAAs with its characteristic 'scoop' shape, described as following the Aberdeen heritage of hood shapes. These 'new' universities also followed the traditional practice of changing hood colours according to the level of award, e.g., bachelor compared with master and sometimes according to subject area.

5.10 In the case of Kingston University, it seemed there were three significant factors affecting the decision-making on academic dress; namely

- brand image and marketing for the new University,
- academic credibility and research, and
- Kingston's connection to Europe.

Branding and logo

5.11 With its reputation in Art & Design, there was close attention to quality of branding material and messaging. This influenced colours, style and brand consistency underlying all aspects of university life. Having recently been through a period of expanding student numbers, there was a more powerful awareness of the need for robust marketing. As a new university there was a further a sense of being one corporate organization in the face of more explicit competition to secure the 'best' students. Moving from being a 'high-ranked' polytechnic to finding a place alongside the pre-'92 university community highlighted this issue, further reinforcing the need to make Kingston recognizable and distinctive. This fed through to decisions about its academic dress with a desire to put a real Kingston mark on it and to avoid possible over-dominance of the view of the robemaker in the decision-making. We did not want a quick one-off-the-shelf approach, despite the time pressure.

5.12 The institution had undertaken a significant review exercise of its marketing activity resulting in the creation of a new logo and communications approach by Trickett & Webb designers, which established its first logo based on 'Kingston Polytechnic' around 1990. This also defined a particular colour palette for signage and communications materials. Recognizing the cost implications in making further change, a simple adaptation to 'Kingston University' was undertaken in 1992 with the help of its own design students. These corporate colours were a kingfisher blue; grey (silver); white (silver) and black and scarlet. Their Pantone definitions were then used in the decisions about the colours to be used in the academic dress. There was an ironic sense that Kingston could emulate Oxbridge (having its own riverside location on the Thames), and define its own 'university blue' (see Figs 10, 11).

This blue made reference to the Kingston Borough coat of arms as well as linking to the University's own coat of arms that was being developed once the status was achieved. The logo described as the 'kicking K' specified the 'university blue' and this was made explicit in the proposals to the Academic Board in AB25.

6. The Kingston University colours should be those of the corporate image i.e.

Blue	Pantone 298
Grey	Pantone Cool Grey 6U
Scarlet	Pantone
Black	Pantone
White	Pantone

Despite scarlet's being an accepted colour, in the event red was not used in any aspect of the Kingston academic dress. Scarlet also had minimal use in other corporate communications, just occasionally providing highlighting. This may have been partly to avoid confusion with the colours used as faculty branding where red was used for the Business School faculty. Faculty colours in the dress and red as part of doctoral academic dress were specifically excluded (see paragraphs 5.22, 5.27).

Academic credibility and research

5.13 The University was proud of its Polytechnic heritage and was not inclined in some respects to follow traditional, 'old' university models. At the same time, it wanted to build on those traditions, including those from Europe given origins of the idea of University in Bologna. Having been under the tutelage and constraint of the CNAA previously there was a strong sense of independence and newly gained controls. How far to develop traditional research was a moot point, thus how far its dress should echo more ancient models was an explicit consideration. Moving on from its CNAA heritage it did not wish to adopt a CNAA-styled hood. Possibly guided by its robemakers, Kingston adopted the full hood design following a Cambridge shape and made a more obviously medieval and traditional form of dress part of the Kingston image. This move away from CNAA styling was also followed by thirteen other new Universities, many using shape [f1] especially. A number retained the [a1] shape for sub-degree awards and some kept the CNAA [a1] shape for all hoods (see App. 9.4 and paragraph 5.25 explaining the view of Hertfordshire and general comparisons in paragraphs 5.29, 5.30). On the other hand, when it took independence in 1993, UMIST, a research institution without a CNAA tradition, adopted the [a1] shape. More recently when UCL, renowned for its research, began to give its own degrees in 2007, it also adopted the [a1] shape (see *Shaw 3*). The rationale for these choices is worth further scrutiny.

5.14 There was no expectation that Kingston's academic dress would be used for other than ceremonial or formal occasions and certainly it was not seen as day wear or clothing to be worn in the classroom. When the then Academic Registrar was at the University of Exeter in late 1970s only one lecturer still gave his lectures wearing a black gown. The concept of undress or dress forms of academic dress did not get considered at Kingston, primarily because occasions when undress robes would be used were not identified. As seen in Appendix 9.4, comparing contemporary academic dress, only around a quarter of those creating their academic dress at that time defined undress arrangements. It is not known how many of those undress versions have been used subsequently. In considering the designs, there was also a consciousness of how Kingston doctors would look alongside others in the wearer's future academic career, knowing that longer term Kingston's PhDs would be sitting on the platforms at ceremonies of both traditional and new universities. Kingston wanted to be different from traditional research-intensive universities but wanted equal gravitas and presence in its academic dress.

Kingston, Europe, and the world

5.15 As it considered its academic future and the strategic direction it would take as a University, there was a clear desire to build on the scale of European interaction already occurring as well as the faculty strength in languages and linguistics. The *Kingston Diary* since the late 1980s had been announcing student, staff, researcher and commercial links from

different parts of Europe. Equally the medieval European roots of higher education in Paris and Bologna were also recognized. The first Vice-Chancellor, Dr Bob Smith, explained that

Once the Polytechnic left Council control in June 1989 everything became a lot easier ... I saw the possibilities in Eastern Europe as providing opportunities for a newly independent institution like Kingston since the existing UK universities dominated relationships in Western Europe.

The thread of European tradition was retained and developed in the subsequent years and into the twenty-first century. Looking for European features to be incorporated probably led to the consideration of design features as indicated in Appendix 9.2 (also see paragraph 5.21).

Traditions followed

5.16 Form of hood

Joining the traditions of a University as against a polytechnic sector, we wanted our hood to have suitable gravitas and the Academic Registrar was keen it should have a proper medieval-style liripipe. In adopting a full shape the hood followed Oxbridge practices rather than those of the CNAAs, making Kingston different from a number of its fellow 'modern/post-'92' universities (see Apps 9.1 and 9.3).

5.17 Square cap and Tudor bonnet

The standard black square cap with black silk tassel (the ubiquitous symbol of higher education) is worn with all robes through to masters' awards and is worn during the ceremony (see App. 9.1). Award holders are regularly seen wearing it in restaurants in town during their graduation day celebrations. To denote more clearly the doctoral level of awards, the tradition of a Tudor bonnet is used but in the grey panama cloth aligned with the grey gown (see App. 9.1). It has a blue silk tassel and the form is reversed for that of the honorary doctorates, with a blue bonnet and grey tassel (see paragraphs 6.11, 6.12, and App. 9.1). Several of the universities of the 1960s took the opportunity to display some more innovative features in headwear, such as the Sussex pileus or the Dan Dare hat at East Anglia. The Kingston dress did not adopt any of these ideas but used its caps as part of the message of academic tradition. This perhaps did not find approval with Shaw who remarked in *Shaw 2*, 'This university has decided to use the style of gown worn by continental universities. This does not apply to the hats and hoods, which are still of British design!'¹⁹

The continental hats shown in Appendix 9.2 were not adopted. In fact, all of Kingston's contemporaries adopted the square cap (some using it for all awards), with the vast majority using the bonnet as well for doctoral levels with none of those 'new' universities creating their own distinctive headwear.

Traditions challenged

5.18 Distinguishing awards; common hoods

As commented earlier, it had been the practice across the university sector to use the hood as a way of distinguishing different thresholds of award. In many cases in pre-'92 universities, a hood shape was defined that was distinctive to the university concerned.²⁰ The roots of the use of hoods in Church traditions gave these differences particular purpose (see Fig.

¹⁹ p. 137.

²⁰ *Shaw 3*, pp. 32–39.

1, paragraph 3.1). At Kingston, with its more commercially based curricula within the polytechnic tradition, there was a more explicitly secular position. It did not offer a Bachelor of Divinity or other theological studies and drew on a wide range of students from diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds. The use of hoods over surplices by lay choir members was not considered by the two staff working on the dress design and was not raised by the robesmakers. It was not expected that a Kingston hood would be worn separately from the rest of the academic dress; thus, a different approach was taken regarding the form of the hood compared to most other UK universities. Although an early exception was Strathclyde, which uses the same hood, of an [f1] shape, for both its bachelor and PhD awards, although each have distinctive gowns (as in [b1] and [d2/d3] shapes, respectively).²¹

5.19 A key figure in the development of Kingston Polytechnic and a strong early advocate of the importance of the student experience had been its Assistant Director, Ivan Hannaford (see Fig. 6a). After some thirty years spent at Kingston, he was retiring in 1992 and one of his principles of education was reflected in the dress adopted. His own experience of higher education took him from walking in off the street to join an evening access programme in 1953, through an external London degree in the early 1960s and a master's degree at the LSE, to becoming Kingston's Assistant Director in 1972 and to receiving an honorary award from the University in 1995 following the publication of this ground-breaking book, *Race: The History of an Idea in the West*.²² It was thus a Kingston premise—described as ‘the Hannaford principle’—that a student starting on the bottom rung of the academic ladder could make it to the top. (See Fig. 6b.)

That sense of being common travellers on the same journey was the reason that the hoods for awards earned through study or research were the same across all awards, giving that message of commonality. The recognition of those given honorary awards continues the message of commonality with the same hood. However, it also has a 1” tape of the University blue set in from the edge to mark the difference between earned and honorary awards (see App. 9.1). There were two other universities at that time which took a similar route with a common university hood. The University of Teesside had a single red, black and white hood of CNAA style (see paragraph 5.20). At Napier University also until 2008, when it became Edinburgh Napier, there were common hoods for each faculty irrespective of awards (see App. 9.4).

5.20 Distinguishing awards by gowns; differentiation on gowns, e.g., facings

Rather than using the hood, the major categories of the Kingston awards are distinguished by changes to the gowns—in particular to the facings, collars and shoulder or back gatherings—using different colours and materials, allowing awards to be recognized from the rear. These features are described in more detail in Section 6 and Appendix 9.1. The only other university establishing its dress at that time that took a similar route was the University of Teesside with awards differentiated by gown shapes and colours.²³ This was also seen in the dress at Napier University until 2008 (when it became Edinburgh Napier and changed its dress), when awards were distinguished by one gown for graduates [b1] and sub-degree awards and another [m10] for postgraduates with a common hood for each faculty with its own colour. The Kingston method of using both a unique ‘own shape’ gown

²¹ C. A. M. Fleming, ‘The Academical Dress of the University of Stirling 1967–2006’, *TBS*, 6 (2006), p. 59.

²² Washington: Woodrow Wilson Center Press, 1996.

²³ See University of Teesside website, at <www.tees.ac.uk/sections/alumni/graduation/preparing.cfm> [retrieved 3 May 2020].

and common hood does not seem to have been followed by other institutions who gained degree-awarding powers during the subsequent twenty-five years, so this combination seems to be a highly unusual feature of Kingston's dress.

5.21 Gowns: European influence; sleeves, facing, and collar

As discussed in paragraph 5.15, there was a desire to show a clear engagement with Europe and a recognition of the medieval origins of the concept of a 'university' in the Continent. There was discussion about the inclusion of some continental features as part of Kingston's dress and source publications about continental academic dress were used to find examples. The *Kingston Diary* entry announcing the academic dress being on display in November 1992 made reference to this (see paragraph 6.13). It was decided to use a bell-shaped sleeve looking towards continental models rather than other more almond or boot shaped or cut sleeves, noting however the Oxford [d2] shape. Two basic gown patterns were therefore adopted; one for those gowns up to masters' degrees which took inspiration from the University of Düsseldorf and one for doctoral awards and university functionaries drawing from the University of Cologne (see App. 9.2 with plates 281 and 283 shown there from Smith). It is noteworthy that the Cologne gown has a set of distinctive pleated facings which the University adopted for the gown for masters' awards and above. There is also reference to the collar and how the facing continues round the back of the gown. It seems likely that these images from Smith were provided to Northam as indicative templates. It was important for the gowns to have similar gravitas but the reason for choosing a Germanic form, and one associated with professors rather than graduates, is not explained in the documents studied nor in the recollections of those concerned.

5.22 Colours

As shown in Appendix 9.4, a number of academic dress colour palettes were based on the coat of arms or logo colours of the respective university. Often there was a key colour, sometimes with the silks dyed especially for the purpose and used particularly in the hoods. This Kingston scheme (see App. 9.1 and paragraphs 5.11, 5.12) took as a key colour the Pantone 298 turquoise blue. There was also a deliberate choice taken to use grey for the doctoral gown both as contrast to the range of traditional scarlet, clarets, crimsons, and burgundies, but also in line with the corporate colours Kingston had recently adopted. The honorary doctoral gown also took up the Pantone 298 but used it as its main colour, with grey for contrast (see App. 9.1 and Figs 7b, 8, 10 and 11). One of the questions posed in AB25, concerned student consultation, which was undertaken at the time through the Student Union President, Billie Davis. There was however some backlash from the research students, who were accustomed to seeing the red colour palette used for doctoral robes (see Fig. 10, showing comparative robes). As a consequence, a meeting took place with the Academic Registrar and the Head of External Affairs to hear their concerns. The argument was not carried given the commitment to the differentiation and brand colours, but also because there were other students in support of the proposed colour scheme. They sought to have the even more colourful Kingston blue robes that were due to be used for the honorary awards.

5.23 Comparable academic dress

Since it was established in 2000 the Burgon Society has published or received presentations about the development of dress at twenty-one universities in the UK.²⁴ Other than the summary data shown in *Shaw 3*, and summarized in Appendix 9.4, only seventeen of

²⁴ Namely Birmingham, Bradford, Canterbury Christ Church, Cambridge, East Anglia, Essex, Glasgow, Hertfordshire, Hull, Kent, Lampeter, Leicester, London, Open, Oxford, Sheffield, Stirling,

the fifty or so pre-'92 universities or institutions offering degrees have had the development of their dress written up. Of the forty-plus universities created from polytechnics in England from 1992 to 1994, only in the cases of the University of Hertfordshire and the University of Westminster have more detailed analysis of their academic dress been published. As well as these 'new' universities contemporary with Kingston, there are now well over fifty additional universities, university colleges and others with Degree-awarding Powers via the Privy Council created since 1994, whose academic dress development and design process have not yet been written up save for descriptions in *Shaw 3*. There are a number of other arrivals not yet included. Only minimal comparability can therefore be made between the situation at Kingston and other academic dress created over the past twenty-five years. It is evident that those working on academic dress development at Kingston in 1992 were using some of the twentieth-century research into academic dress but were not aware of advice or expertise outside the robemakers, including those individuals involved with *Hoodata* from 1974 to 1981, who went on to form the Burgon Society in 2000.

Comparable journeys: Hertfordshire and Westminster

5.24 The University of Hertfordshire and the University of Westminster were both created from polytechnics in 1992 and resembled Kingston, being in the South East/London environment, with similar missions, markets and Victorian roots. It is useful therefore to compare their approach and academic dress outcomes given the analysis by Bruce Christianson in his book on Hertfordshire²⁵ and Phil Goff's *Burgon Society Annual* article on Westminster.²⁶ Christianson has also shared some private notes about the design process. In establishing their dress, both Universities had individuals with significant knowledge about academic dress and awareness of the respective traditions, namely Christianson and at Westminster, Dr David Avery. In both cases a full schema was developed and there were important messages embedded in the academic dress imagery about the institution and its history. Both sought a range of colours for their hoods aligned with university history and branding, and both approved dress and undress versions of their doctoral academic dress. The robemakers chosen were the other two indicated in the Kingston procurement list in AB25, with Hertfordshire going with J. Wippell & Co. Limited, and Westminster with Ede & Ravenscroft.

5.25 Hertfordshire academic dress

Hertfordshire's particular feature was the University's colours of grey, white, and purple. As at Kingston there was a consciousness of a European dimension and the desire to connect to the continental origins of university life and dress. Similar concerns were expressed about the tight financial context and that it did not want to see its students having to pay high hire fees for complex robes. The choice of an [a1] hood was not only based on the CNAAs heritage but also the dilemma of having hoods that would remain in place especially for female wearers, highlighting the comparative lighter weight of the CNAAs shape. At Hertfordshire, therefore, all hoods were an [a1] shape, one of only five universities to have

University of the Arts London, Wales, Warwick and Westminster.

²⁵ *Academic Dress in the University of Hertfordshire*, 2nd edn (Hatfield: University of Hertfordshire, 2006).

²⁶ 'Academical Dress in the University of Westminster', *Burgon Society Annual 2003*, pp. 37–62.

this consistency. In Christianson's records, it was also clear there was the sense of joining a greater community, using and creating traditions and a similar consciousness that there would be future generations of Hertfordshire postgraduates and doctorates on graduation platforms as academic staff.

5.26 Westminster academic dress

Westminster's particular feature was the University's colours of claret and silver-grey, which had already been used for Polytechnic diplomas. As at Kingston there was a desire for distinctiveness but an awareness of some 'mistakes' that had occurred in the dress created in the 1960s which by then were perhaps being discretely reversed. Equally there was a similar desire to build on existing traditions, both internal and external. Reporting on proposed academic dress, Avery explained:

This has to be distinctive so that it is not confused with that of any other academic institution; but there is the opportunity to do this within the traditional forms by a careful use of the colours that are adopted, while avoiding some of the non-conventional forms which were adopted by one or two universities in the 1960s ...

I suggest that the University of Westminster should follow the basic Oxford patterns (not because of any pro-Oxford or anti-Cambridge bias) because those shapes are less usual and, therefore, offer greater scope when it comes to the opportunity to introduce variety through the use of colour. This is particularly relevant if we wish to use (as I have suggested) the claret and silver-grey colours which have become identified with PCL and are indeed, used in the hoods for the PCL diploma-holders.²⁷

5.27 Avery was aware of the range of reds often used for the doctoral robe but wanted to see the Polytechnic colour branding used for this significant academic award. However, he did not propose the normal Tudor bonnet, but suggested all awards at Westminster have the square cap. However, in the end the sub-committee wanted the dress to have a maroon velvet bonnet, which is the case per *Shaw 3*.

Those for PhDs are made in a variety of coloured cloths depending on the university and normally avoiding scarlet. Personally, it would give me great pleasure to see the PCL colours of claret and silver-grey used for our PhD robes.²⁸

There was also similar discussion about the use or not of faculty colours and an intervention from the Rector (soon to be Vice-Chancellor), Terence Burlin.

The Rector recommends to the Committee that the University does not have Faculty colours. Faculties are a mode of organization within the institution which will change from time to time. It is better, therefore, to have distinct colours only for the different types of degree awarded.²⁹

5.28 The internal sub-committee confirmed the colours for the hood linings associated with the type of degree, e.g.,

LLB Black lined claret with two inch purple inside top edge; BEng Black lined silver grey with two inch dark blue inside top edge; MA Claret cloth lined claret silk; MSc Dark silver grey lined light silver grey; MEng Dark silver grey lined dark blue etc.³⁰

27 Ibid., p. 38.

28 Ibid., p. 40.

29 Ibid., p. 42.

30 Ibid., p. 44.

This greater complexity of hood design was not an option taken either by Kingston or Hertfordshire but was more aligned to practices in the pre-'92 universities. Goff, as adviser to Ede & Ravenscroft, was clearly comfortable with the balance of innovation chosen by Westminster and remarks in passing on the value of Avery's expertise, 'his contribution to the thinking about this matter in the University of Westminster steered it away from some of the pits fallen into by other establishments!'³¹

The first ceremony displaying the new academic dress was, like Kingston's in November 1992, in Westminster's case at the Barbican, London. At Westminster, the final version of the academic dress was formally approved by the Court of Governors and issued on 5 July 1993. At Kingston, the academic regulations originally contained the definition, but it did not appear in AB57. It is not clear given present search of the archive whether this text was in the version approved by Kingston's Board of Governors. By the time of retender in 2013 material it seemed that details were being retrieved via Wm. Northam & Co., not from the University's own records.

5.29 Comparable journeys: the other 'new' universities

Material about the position of the other universities created as a result of the FHE Act 1992 is drawn from *Shaw 3* and noted in Appendix 9.4. In some cases, a merger since 1992 has resulted in a new university which sought to change the first style of academic dress. In some a change of name/branding or dress use in practice may have resulted in the changes. In Appendix 9.4 are forty-six instances of academic dress reviewed for comparison with Kingston, all of which had adopted their academic dress in 1992 or 1993.³² There is therefore little public information about the original process of design or on the choices of robemaker. It seems likely that the consistency across the data set suggests most were much influenced by the robemakers they chose. Decisions were also having to be made at speed, universities being keen to exercise their awarding powers as soon as possible. On gowns, there was significant consistency with [b1], [m10], and [d1] being clear favourites. Despite the variety in all cases, except Kingston, they adopted an existing shape, mainly from the Oxbridge range but sometimes referring to other local relationships, e.g., London, Edinburgh. Some also added buttons, cords, or facings to create differentiations.

5.30 A number were taking their colours, especially for hoods, from their branding and also in a number of cases, like Kingston, looking for special university colours, e.g., 'crushed strawberry pink' at De Montfort, cyan at Huddersfield, Napier red/Napier tartan at Edinburgh Napier, terra-cotta at Plymouth, etc. No others seemed to be defining colour with such precision as Kingston and its Pantone number. Others were using part of their logo or coat of arms for a characteristic image which was embedded or embroidered into the hood or formed another part of the dress, e.g., an elm leaf at Brighton, a phoenix at Coventry, armorial features at Greenwich, London South Bank, Liverpool John Moores, all seeking a unique combination to make them recognizable. About half were using doctoral robes in the red spectrum—scarlet, red, dark red, claret, maroon—and almost thirty per cent opting for those in a blue range. Only two others picked grey like Kingston. Most had brighter colours for honorary awards or their higher doctorates, although it would appear many in the post-'92 sector have poor un-

³¹ *Ibid.*, p. 37.

³² That is, except for Abertay in 1994 or as a reconfigured university such as Bedfordshire 2006, London Metropolitan 2012, or revised their dress for unknown reasons as in Edinburgh Napier 2009 and Glasgow Caledonian 2010.

derstanding of what a higher doctorate is and there was (and is) confusion with professional doctorates. Since 1993 there have been almost forty further universities and institutions able to define their own academic dress who have also sought distinctive images and opted for similar solutions, and similar detailed analysis would be useful for better comparability.

5.31 A final comment on its academic dress development was made in 2000 in a history of Kingston University and its origins from the 1800s to the millennium produced by Gibson. He remarks on the naming of the University and the design processes:

Once the die had been cast, the Polytechnic was faced by what outsiders probably regarded as a minor problem, but one which nevertheless created considerable interest not to say heat within the institution. What was the new university to be called? Eventually, Academic Board and the Governors decided that ‘Kingston University’ was a sensible and suitable title [*The Surrey Comet*, 19 July 1991]. Then, the official academic gown and hood were finally selected following an amusing but sometimes heated debate. Alice Hynes, the Academic Registrar, commented: ‘Academic dress has a slightly semiotic nature as a characteristic of the institution. It is an image of independent degree-awarding powers, it says we have arrived’ [*The Times Higher Educational Supplement*, 13 March 1992].³³

6: What dress? Worn where? And how?

6.1 Definition of academic dress

At the faculty-based ceremonies, the Polytechnic had used the academic dress of the CNAA and simple black gowns for several sub-degree or certificate courses that were its own awards such as the Art Foundation course. Thus, when gaining powers to award undergraduate, postgraduate and research degrees, it was important to the new University to articulate a coherent structure of qualifications across the various ranges including honorary awards (see Appendices 9.1 and 9.3). That framework would then serve as the categorizations which could be used for the University’s academic dress.³⁴ There was also an expectation that Kingston—as a ‘modern’ university, responsive to the professions and industries it served—would have frequent refreshment of the academic portfolio of qualifications. It was recognized that Departments and Faculties would also grow, merge and change character as the institution sought to maintain organizational focus, efficiency and market relevance (see also paragraph 5.27 on Westminster). AB25 stated in Principle 3 that

- Differentiated academic dress should be created for the following awards : —
- a) Certificates, Diplomas and awards of other bodies having no academic dress of their own
 - b) Degrees — Honours and Non-Honours
 - c) Postgraduate and post-experience qualifications
 - d) Masters degrees
 - e) MPhil
 - f) PhD
 - g) Higher Doctor

6.2 In AB57 of 24 June 1992 confirmation of all awards was given in the final Academic Regulations document including those for Honorary Awards, which were to be designated at both master’s and doctoral levels. Appendix 9.1 contains the images of academic dress kindly provided by Wm. Northam & Co. The University Graduation Office also

³³ Gibson, p. 102.

³⁴ Due to the postponement of graduation in 2020, academic dress web links were removed from Kingston’s website in Spring 2020.

allowed sight of the definitions as provided to the robemakers during the tender process in 2013 with current images available on its website.³⁵ At the time of the tender, the original definitions of academic dress could not be found in the Kingston archives; a search for the material continues (see also Appendix 9.3). On the basis that the list in the 1992 regulations is correct and those were created at the time, there was a subsequent need to define a robe for the Foundation degree and for the Integrated Masters' awards, but no further forms of academic dress have been added since to deal with new awards. The dress for other functionaries of the University, including the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor, were defined as part of the original tender; an account of that process and comparable material from other universities, it is hoped, can be explored in a future publication.

Comment and description of award holder academic dress

6.3 Certificate and intermediate level

The dress for a range of sub-degree programmes had previously been worn at Polytechnic ceremonies. Many of these were also previously Kingston's own awards³⁶ when it was a polytechnic such as the key art programme—Polytechnic Certificate in Foundation Studies; the preparatory/conversion year before taking a degree programme Foundation Certificate in Technology or in Science; and a number of professional certificates and diplomas. These had just used simple black gowns. Once Kingston academic dress was created the undergraduate gown following the Düsseldorf shape was adopted (see Appendices 9.1 and 9.2). The same hood for earned awards is worn for these awards through to those with doctorates. This follows the idea of a single ladder of Kingston qualifications using the Hannaford principle (see paragraph 5.19). There is however no other mark of academic distinction on the robe itself. The same square cap (symbolic of higher education) is worn in this case and with all dress through to the masters' awards.

6.4 Foundation degree

The dress for the foundation degree, which is normally a two-year full-time programme, recognizes the award as one in its own right. (See App. 9.1.) However, those successfully completing year two of an undergraduate degree programme and gaining the Diploma of HE,³⁷ would wear dress as per paragraph 6.3. The blue band on the sleeve designates the positioning between the sub-degree qualifications below and those at degree level above. There is no blue facing compared to the degree-level gown.

6.5 Bachelor's degree

The dress for the undergraduate degree, which is normally a three-year full time or four-year sandwich programme, is one of the key design anchor points for the Kingston academic dress. They were recognized as being the academic dress that would be worn by the most individuals. The gown is bell-sleeved following the Düsseldorf style, colour black. It is at this level that the characteristic university blue facings of 2½ inches appear on the Kingston gowns and there is a continuation of coloured material around the back of the collar which also gives an additional flash of blue above the hood when seen from the rear. They have the black square cap.

³⁵ Due to the postponement of graduation in 2020, academic dress web links were removed from Kingston's website in Spring 2020.

³⁶ As shown in Paper AB23 1991–92 Annex B.

³⁷ Also DipHE, a Diploma in Higher Education.

6.6 Postgraduate degree

The dress for the postgraduate degree provides for those who are taking interim awards having studied for the master's award or who are completing courses, which could be a deeper specialization, e.g., Diploma in Management Studies or first level of professional skills, such as the PGCE award for entry to the teaching profession. (See App. 9.1.) The gown is similar to the bachelor gown in its Düsseldorf shape and bell sleeves, with blue collar, but the blue silk facing is slightly wider at 4 inches than that on the undergraduate robes; however, it remains as a flat banding, without any pleats.

6.7 Integrated masters

The dress for these Integrated masters relates to the extended degrees taken by students originally registered for bachelors' degrees and which develop deeper understanding over a four-year study period of an academic area in engineering or the sciences resulting in such awards as MChem, MComp, MEng, MPharm, MPharmSci; in 1992, only the MEng was in place (see App. 9.1 and Fig. 7b). Also termed 'undergraduate masters', or 'first degree/enhanced masters', they are perceived as different from the standard stand-alone one-year full-time/two years part-time qualification. There is similar use of the sleeve banding (see paragraph 6.4) to denote an award positioned between normal bachelor and master qualifications, and it has the same bell sleeve and the wide single band blue silk facing as the postgraduate gown.

6.8 Master's degree

The dress for the master's degree retains the bell sleeve on the gown but follows the Cologne shape, being differentiated by the four pleats in the blue facing of the gown. It also has blue material in the gathering at the shoulder and the back by the collar (see Figs 8 and 9). The collar reverts to black compared to the blue of the Düsseldorf graduate and postgraduate gowns. Although in the original specification in AB25, a separate gown for the MPhil was indicated, it would appear that in current practice there is no distinction, and that all masters' awards, both professional and research, describe the gown as in Appendix 9.1 and Figures 8, 9. In *Shaw 2* there is also no reference to separate MPhil robes,³⁸ so it may be assumed this practice was adopted early and perhaps further information to clarify the position any rationale may be found in archives at Kingston or Wm. Northam & Co.

6.9 Doctorate: PhD

The dress for the doctoral qualifications is the other anchor point for Kingston's academic dress. It was recognized that those with doctorates would probably be taking forward an academic career and thus the academic dress they wore would appear at future ceremonies at Kingston and similarly at many other universities. To mark this significant academic threshold into masters'/research awards, there is a change of gown shape from Düsseldorf to Cologne. For the doctorate, there is a change of colour from black to grey and the hat alters to the Tudor bonnet, which are seen in Appendix. 9.1 and Figures 7, 8. In contrast with both Hertfordshire and Westminster, Kingston made no provision for undress forms of its doctoral robes. As a side note the only other ex-polytechnics using grey at this doctoral level are UCLAN and London Metropolitan. The University of Stirling is also one of the few pre-'92 universities with grey for its doctoral robes.

³⁸ *Shaw 2*, pp. 137–38, and *Shaw 3*, pp. 234–36.

6.10 Professional doctorates and higher doctorates: DBA, EdD

The level of award above the PhD would normally be awarded following consideration of a significant research and other publication record. Provision was made for these in the original Academic Regulations and gown proposed. (See App. 9.1.) Since that date doctoral awards have been created which focussed on professional practice rather than more detailed research questions such as the Doctor of Education (EdD). It is not clear presently what higher doctorates Kingston is awarding but it does award professional doctorates which are equivalent to PhD as indicated on its website, e.g., the DBA:³⁹

The DBA represents a natural progression and development for masters-level graduates by providing a rigorous and challenging programme of study. It focuses on the development of advanced conceptual frameworks and skills needed by senior executives within the context of strategic management. It also encourages a broader and more holistic approach than the more focused and specialized PhD programme.

The distinguishing mark compared to robes for PhD award holders is the extra band of colour on the sleeve. Further work is needed to clarify the dress for these awards as it might appear that the extra band creates the impression of a grander gown than for a doctorate by research. The gown for a higher doctorate aligns with the honorary doctorate but with the normal hood for awards earned by study.

6.11 Honorary awards

A principle in AB25 declares, '5. Honorary degree holders should be eligible to wear the same academic dress as those holding assessed awards.' But there was also a question: 'Should there be a distinction between robes worn by those receiving an Honorary award as against those receiving an award after a taught course or research?' In the event there was strong distinction in the dress for honorary award holders compared to the dress for awards earned by academic study. In contrast with the normal doctoral gown, the colours are in effect reversed: blue rather than grey on the gown and bonnet, and grey rather than blue on sleeves, with a silver-grey tassel instead of a blue tassel on the bonnet. The hood for all awards earned by study is the same and the one for honorary awards is almost identical except that it has a blue band of tape just inset from the edge. A number of staff at the University have achieved their doctoral awards at Kingston and so in the group pictures it is possible to see those honorary award robes in the company of those holding other doctoral awards. There does not appear to be current use made of the honorary master's award. (See App. 9.1 and Figs 6b, 10 and 11.)

6.12 In AB25, quoted in paragraph 5.8, it was proposed that three other honorary categories—Honorary Fellows, Visiting Professors and Visiting Speakers—should have dress specified. Without further work in the archives at Kingston and Wm. Northam & Co. it is not possible to identify whether such dress was produced in 1992–93. Given the cost these additional robes would probably have been at the University's expense, it seems likely that their production was not taken forward, but those concerned at the time do not recall the decision. By the time the tender was written in 2013, proposals were included for Honorary Fellows and Visiting Professors, but in the case of Fellow it is assumed a reference to 'Own Shape' means Kingston's 'Cologne' or 'Düsseldorf' shaped gown, although it is unclear which. It also made provision for a new group called 'Members of the Court of Benefactors', but there are no images presently available for people wearing these robes and it is not known if they are now in use.

³⁹ Doctor of Business Administration. The programme is not currently running.

When was Kingston's academic dress worn?

6.13 The Foundation Day of 24 June 1992 was marked by a procession, and academic dress was used as an explicit part of the messaging about transition to a more significant academic and constitutional status. At this point, however, none of the new academic dress of the University was available, as it was still being produced; however, the use of academic dress was seen as a key message for the ceremonial with timetable adjusted around it, as shown in the information in AB48 of 1 June 1992 (See Fig. 1).

A simple University Inauguration Ceremony has been arranged for 5.30 pm on Wednesday 24 June. The main purpose of the event is to ensure that the local community appreciate the importance of the new University and of Kingston as a 'University town'. All Members of the Academic Board are being invited to the Ceremony and are expected to be part of the procession from the Guildhall to All Saints Parish Church. In view of the need to prepare for the Ceremony the Academic Board is asked to start its meeting at 1.30 pm on 24 June and finish it before 4 pm in order to give Members time to put on academic dress.

Five months later however the new academic dress was in use by both the first award holder and the University functionaries. An extract from the fortnightly news sheet issued to all staff, *Kingston University Diary*, of 19 October 1992, was titled 'New Gowns on show', and stated:

The University's new academic dress will be on display for the first time at the Faculty of Science Presentation Ceremony. The Vice-Chancellor and Dean of Science, together with the first graduates from Kingston's health studies degree course run in collaboration with Guildford College of Technology, will be wearing robes and hoods with bell-shaped sleeves reflecting Kingston's European dimension and in the corporate colours of grey and blue.

When it was designed there was a clear expectation that those attending a ceremony would wear relevant robes, as the first principle stated in AB25, 'and such dress should be worn on appropriate ceremonial occasions.' Kingston followed CNAA practice in award conferment through the Examination Board under delegated authority from the Academic Board. Thus, those attending a ceremony were already graduates or award holders, not 'graduands'. The event was not part of the conferment, save in the case of those being given awards *honoris causa*, who had to be there in person to receive it. Academic dress is a still key part of the annual life of the University, including a procession through the town.

Equality and diversity issues

6.14 Considerations about gender and ethnic diversity and academic dress at Kingston were highlighted in AB25, Principle 8: 'The academic dress should be designed such that it may be worn comfortably by various sizes of person and be sensitive to any Equal Opportunities Policy adopted by the Kingston University.' Among the questions asked in AB25 was:

Given the multicultural student population/equal opportunities policy should dress definitions include the option for female dress eg, the women's Oxford soft hat rather than mortar board; respond to dress requirements for female Islamic students or define a black headress for Sikh students?

In the event no specific guidance or definition was given for those wearing the hijab or turban, but in many cases complementary colours were chosen by those concerned, as it was reasonably easy to wear the square cap on top of the hijab. The choice was made to

have no differentiation between the academic dress to be worn by different genders. However, the academic dress looks different according to the clothes being worn underneath it, but it does accommodate the variety of dress traditions within a diverse community such as Kingston University. (See Figs 7b, 12.)

6.15 In the AB25 the questions highlighted the difficulty of wearing hoods by women graduates. ‘One of the main complaints about wearing hoods is how they are pinned on. Could we design an original Kingston clasp?’

In the current guidance to students the website in 2017/2018 indicates, ‘From a practical point of view, it’s best if graduates wear a shirt or blouse so that the hood can be fastened on a button. Alternatively, bring a safety pin.’⁴⁰

This continues a problem as shown in videos on YouTube, comparing the way hoods fit under the tie for men compared to resting on the frock for women.⁴¹ Robemakers have sought to resolve this issue by the addition of Velcro to hood and gown (see Fig. 7a). In April 2018 the Burgon Society received a presentation from two entrepreneurs who had sought to address this issue by the creation of new forms of magnetic buttons. Wearden⁴² discusses these gender issues in her examination of Lancaster ceremonies and also in the development of the soft cap for women. At Kingston there was no consideration of offering a women’s soft cap instead of the square cap. The past etiquette on hat wearing as well as gender stereotyping seemed increasingly irrelevant at the time, and the objective in 1992 was to allow men and women to wear comfortably the same academic dress which manifested their academic achievements.

Twenty-first-century attitudes

6.16 By the mid 2010s, attitude to student debt and hire costs meant the then Vice-Chancellor made a public statement that those attending the University’s ceremonies were not required to wear academic dress if they did not wish to. Other fundamental questions on the ownership of the definition have become recent live issues (see Section 7). At Kingston the YouTube videos clearly show continuing engagement with academic dress. Unlike at some other universities, the square cap or bonnet is worn during the ceremony by all award holders and with an ongoing tradition of cap tossing.

On the Kingston Website it previously stated: ‘We encourage everyone to wear “academic dress” (gown, hood and hat) at their graduation ceremony. And no, it’s not compulsory, but most graduates make an effort on the day’.⁴³

The academic dress looks very different person to person according to the clothes being worn under it, as seen in Figures 7b, 9, and 11, and such formality/informality also extends to footwear. The Kingston website gave those attending some basic guidance, stating:

40 Due to the postponement of graduation in 2020, academic dress web links were removed from Kingston’s website in Spring 2020.

41 YouTube videos about preparing for Kingston graduation, uploaded 24 April 2018, online at: <www.youtube.com/watch?v=-_q2M_5GIXI>, <<https://youtu.be/oHPaEpCcPWc>>, and <www.youtube.com/watch?v=kEQXyheIL_Q> [all retrieved 3 May 2020].

42 S. Wearden, ‘How Academic Dress Is Mobilized in Degree Ceremonies and to What Effect’, *TBS*, 15 (2015), pp. 14–29.

43 Due to the postponement of graduation in 2020, academic dress web links were removed from Kingston’s website in Spring 2020.

What to wear (underneath)

Graduations are friendly rather than formal but, as it's a special occasion, most people—including guests—go smartly dressed.⁴⁴

Considerable fascinating work has been undertaken by Keenan on academic dress and modernism, changing attitudes and the survival of academic dress which connect very well to Kingston's situation; he comments:

In academia, therefore, the abandonment of academical costume is closely tied to the discourses of empowerment, widening participation and relevance, which have governed educational theory for decades. The abandonment of academical costume was perhaps, therefore, seen as a stand against elitism, a visual sign of the university's commitment to liberate intellectual capital, to widen participation beyond the esoteric few, and to undertake studies of 'relevance' to the world beyond the academy. For academical dress, the two-pronged assault from cultural-intellectual and aesthetic modernism resulted in a toxic synthesis of socio-cultural forces, that potentially undermined its supporting metanarrative. From the apperception of intellectual modernity, the apparently ossified and rigid tradition of academical costume is an embarrassing and meaningless anachronism, and one that demonstrates an institution's inability to shed the shackles of tradition, thus fundamentally undermining its academic credibility.⁴⁵

6.17 Two of the questions raised in AB25 examined 'academic dress' in terms of what twentieth-century students wore on a daily basis or as a form of dress that they would continue to wear as 'memento' of their time at the University.

Should the institution define other academic dress in normal daily use and sell it, e.g.. scarves, ties and badges, brooches etc.

Should one item of dress be designed to be very 1990's in style? A waistcoat? A necktie or (?) In order to emphasize that we are a new University perhaps something that could be restyled on a 'quinquennial' basis to affirm our commitment to development and our positive response to change.

There had clearly been an existing Oxbridge tradition of the college scarf and the college tie both used as forms of messaging to show community and inclusion as a member of the respective tribe or badge of community membership. This was clearly continued in both the traditions of the red-brick and the universities created in the 1960s. By the 1990s and the twenty-first century, creating and selling academic day wear tended to rest with the respective students' unions providing in particular hoodies, T-shirts and sportswear. At Kingston in 2017 there was the opportunity to buy clothing etc. at graduation from 'Campus Clothing' such as Class of 2017 clothing and from Eve and Eva, a graduation ring; similar items were on offer in 2018/19.

6.18 Homemade academic dress

Although the University had appointed academic dress suppliers (see Section 7) the definition of the dress was understood to belong to the University. The question of whether robes could be made at home or by alternative suppliers has been an issue for many universities. The copyright issue was pointed up at the presentation by Neil Dickson and the author to the University Registrars' conference in Belfast in April 2017. There are examples in other

⁴⁴ Formerly at <www.kingston.ac.uk/alumni/graduation-ceremonies/gowns/#wear> but no longer accessible, perhaps temporarily due to the coronavirus.

⁴⁵ O. J. Keenan, 'How Can Academical Dress Survive in the Third Millennium?' *TBS*, 10 (2010), pp. 99–125 (p. 115).

post-'92 universities of students using homemade versions to save cost, but in practice staff do not prevent their crossing the stage.⁴⁶ Equally Kingston has changed its position on requiring students to wear its academic dress (see paragraph 6.16). Interestingly, there seemed to be a tradition at Kingston developed in recent years, of students creating their own versions of the square cap and decorating it with messages or relevant symbols. An example in 2017 was at the Business ceremony (see paragraph 6.14 and Fig 12, in which the cap has written on the top 'I believed I could, so I did')

7. Twentieth- and twenty-first-century robemakers

Context of robe making in twentieth and twenty-first centuries

7.1 At the time when the first group of polytechnics was gaining degree-awarding powers and becoming universities in the 1990s there was a broader range of robemakers available to support the development of their various academic dress designs. Many would have had experience in the supply of CNAAs robes via Ede & Ravenscroft for previous ceremonies. When consideration was given to appointing Kingston's robemakers the choice was made from three different suppliers, in line with the standard procurement practices. In AB25, it was stated

Once a specification is agreed, it is proposed to ask the following companies to quote for an exclusive contract:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------|
| a) Ede & Ravenscroft Ltd | London |
| b) Wm. Northams & Co | Oxford |
| c) J. Wippell & Co | Exeter |

The decision having been taken to establish a more distinctive dress for Kingston and for internal staff to take an active part in its definition, it was important to identify a robemaker prepared to take part in supplying a more bespoke set of designs rather than pushing the University towards an off-the-shelf example. In making this choice there was a definite sense that in some cases, due to the pressure of so many new universities wanting robes at the same time, designs might be produced that suited the convenience of the robemaker or at least were choices within a restricted range.

7.2 In liaising with Bill Keen at Ede & Ravenscroft at the time for the University of Westminster, Dr Avery commented,

I have now had the chance to speak with Mr Keen, the Managing Director of Ede and Ravenscroft. It seems they are already becoming fairly busy with a number of polytechnics and the designs for their academic dress. He told me that, from his company's point of view, the great difficulty is always that educational institutions are never clear in their minds about what they want.⁴⁷

Goff confirms the pressure at the time in a footnote.

The granting of charters to the polytechnics threw the world of robemaking into a flat spin. A huge injection of cash was needed in a very short space of time in order to fulfil the requirements of the post-1992 wave of universities, in the UK, for new academic dress. Ede and Ravenscroft had to expand its business premises very quickly so as to cope with demand.⁴⁸

⁴⁶ YouTube hosts of video of a young man skateboarding in his gown, 21 June 2017, online at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=btduKMns34k> [retrieved 3 May 2020].

⁴⁷ Goff, 'Academical Dress in the University of Westminster', p. 42.

⁴⁸ Ibid.

Rather than emulating CNAAs styles, Kingston was seeking an original approach given its own art and design heritage. In the discussions with contacts at the robemakers it seemed that Wm. Northam & Co. would provide a more personalized service, where the University was an important client rather than one of many. One consequence of being outside the traditional frameworks was perhaps that some of the Kingston choices might have been firmly classed as ‘deplorable and lamentable’ had Franklyn been alive to see them or were in the mind of Goff when he referred to ‘the pits fallen into’ (see paragraphs 3.2, 5.28). The scheme Northam produced is shown in Appendix 9.1.

Wm. Northam & Co and Kingston

7.3 The appointment of Wm. Northam & Co. as official robemaker to the University was announced, misspelled slightly, in the *Diary* on 8 September 1992.

Academic Dress

The robing company Wm. Northams & Co Ltd have been appointed as official robemakers for Kingston University and will be the sole suppliers of robes for future Kingston University qualification holders. Northams will from 1993 support all Presentation Ceremonies held by the University. Their appointment is until August 1997 in the first instance. A set of University robes will be on display later in the Autumn term but they will first be seen at the Science Presentation Ceremony on 23 October 1992.

Those involved in the negotiations recall the insistence on a reasonably long period of exclusive appointment—preferably at least ten years in order that the additional costs of producing such bespoke items (with the gowns not usable at other ceremonies) could be recovered by the robemakers. During the autumn of 1992 there was correspondence about the gown and hood development with outcomes as detailed in Sections 5 and 6.

To date some very helpful contact with staff at Wm. Northam & Co (now William Northam) and their archives has occurred, but it has not been possible to consult those involved at Ede & Ravenscroft. There is no evidence found as yet, twenty-five years on, of the correspondence in the Kingston archive. Images from Hugh Smith’s comprehensive study was provided as indicative of the styles preferred (see App. 9.2).

7.4 As official robemakers Northam made the considerable number of new gowns required for the University’s ceremonies, retaining ownership of them and having them available for hire by the award holders. A commission from the fees paid for gown hire was returned to the University on the basis of the contract with the robemaker.

The relationship with Northam continued through the tenure of the author and Alison Stokes as Academic Registrars. The responsibility for the graduation ceremonies subsequently moved from Registry with responsibility taken by Rebecca Hill, Graduations Manager, as part of the Alumni team. As sharper procurement rules were introduced, cost control continued a significant feature and closer attention was given to ensuring best value for money in relation to all kinds of University contracts, with a regular tendering process being expected. The contract with the robemaker was also subject to this process and in 2013 a tender was put out to Ede & Ravenscroft and Northam among others. As a result, it is understood that a better price and other guarantees were given by Ede & Ravenscroft and the contract moved to them (see App. 9.3 on current charges). As the Kingston dress had distinctive gowns with coloured facings rather than the standard gowns (such as [b1]/[b2] or [m1]/[m2] forms) and the large number of same hoods, this was not so easy. It

is understood that obvious disappointment and considerable concern for future quality control was expressed by Northam at the time of losing the appointment. It is surmised by the writer that Ede & Ravenscroft purchased the complete stock from Northam, in order not to have to make up such a large quantity of robes afresh. In 2017 however, as in Figure 13, it was clear that in some cases the wrong robe, without the Kingston sleeve shape, was being issued to some students.

7.5 These practices of commission and regularly tendered contracts with robemakers, being largely standard across the University sector in the UK over the past thirty-plus years, reinforced the norm that students do not buy their academic dress. It is clear that the hire model has become under pressure as the issue of student fees has raised other questions about cost. On the web discussion site Student Room in 2015 there was an exchange about academic dress and the question of hiring or purchasing, which indicated that there are still some who choose to buy their robes; perhaps as a memento or because they do use them in academia.⁴⁹ During the period of the appointment held by Northam it was understood around a hundred students per year purchased their academic dress, most of them being international students taking them home perhaps for subsequent use. Also, at Kingston there was the practice in the past of the University purchasing the hood for the honorary doctorate and providing that as a gift to the person being honoured alongside the certification.

8. Conclusions

Summary of issues raised

8.1 In giving an account of the experience at Kingston of academic dress development, a number of research topics have arisen for which there has not been space for deeper exploration including:

- The academic dress of University functionaries and officers;
- The lack of sufficient comparative information about the decisions made on their dress by other universities established at the time and by those created subsequently;
- The explanation on the development of the CNAA academic dress given the extent of its influence on the dress of so many 'post-'92' universities;
- The role of the robemaker and the University in terms of the ownership and creation of the academic dress design and the question of copyright;
- The interface between the academic and the marketing perspectives on dress, awards and the graduation ceremony or other events;
- The students' attitude to academic dress;
- The academics' attitude to academic dress, especially its hire;
- Academic dress as metaphor or meme for graduate status and higher education;
- Given hire not purchase of robes, the extent to which academic dress has become 'fancy dress' for a one-off occasion
- Decision-making processes on dress for new awards and their categorization, once initial academic dress forms are established;
- Changes to established academic dress in light of changing views of use, purpose or messaging, e.g., in the case of merger or brand change;
- Data on numbers of people who have worn academic dress;

⁴⁹ These threads also make reference to the Burgon Society and are online at <www.the-studentroom.co.uk/showthread.php?p=52653023#post52653023> [retrieved 3 May 2020].

- Gender and faith impacts on wearing academic dress;
- Clothing worn with or underneath the academic gown and its impact on gravitas and celebration.

8.2 It is a live question as to why twenty-five years later academic dress remains so popular and is worn by a large number of people at least once in their lives. Burgon Fellows have sought to explore these issues which Stephen Wolgast summarizes valuably in his editor's note.

How does something so old stay relevant today? Academic dress lives in the present at ceremonies because it lived—thrived, even—in the past. When we see new graduates wearing it we know it has survived over the centuries not simply because of tradition, but because it carries emotional meaning to those who wear it and to their parents and family too. Academic dress hasn't always been associated with celebration. In centuries past, politicians have forbidden it, religious leaders have challenged it, and in rough economic times, such as those during the World Wars, less rigorous dress standards saw a decline in its use. Student uprisings in the 1960s changed styles of dress tremendously and tore away most of the dress standards that had survived until then. Despite it all, academic dress is still worn on campuses around the world.⁵⁰

8.3 Summary of objectives achieved for Kingston

At the time that Kingston's academic dress was established eight principles were articulated in AB25 indicating

1. That there should be dress for Kingston awards and it should be worn
2. The relationship to dress associated with awards not from Kingston
3. Categories of awards to have differentiated dress
4. The functionaries that were to have dress
5. The dress arrangements for honorary award holders
6. The colour palette
7. That there should be quality of materials
8. Dress should ensure equality issues were accommodated

Looking at the situation in 2016 to 2018, it is clear that academic dress is well used and is thriving at the University, both in its ceremonial and in the messaging academic dress provides. Award holders, graduates, and academics are wearing the academic dress that was designed in 1992, albeit now using a different robemaker as supplier. Kingston's dress also has to sit alongside the dress of its partner St Georges Medical School, and it shows its distinctive presence at its own events and at the ceremonies of other universities across the UK. The nine categories of dress declared in 1992 are still being used within that framework, with some new items included and some of the original proposals merged. However, the decision then, that it would be compulsory, has not been held to so strictly. We see examples of more individualistic approaches being permitted and ceremonial participation allowed without the approved robes for Kingston University. Honorary award holders have worn Kingston academic dress, wearing the alternative version of the University hood from those who had studied for their qualification. The colour palette has remained and has been used on new dress for awards and new functionaries. After the initial production paid attention to the quality of cloth and production, it is not yet clear whether there has been deterioration. Concerns expressed about diversity and combining ethnic dress successfully with the University's academic dress seem to have worked.

⁵⁰ 'Editor's Note', *TBS*, 14 (2014), p. 7.

Conclusion on the health of academic dress at Kingston University

8.4 Those involved in the creation of the academic dress at Kingston looked to their own research and knowledge, working in partnership with the robemakers using their advice for form and production. From the start the dress was seen as a part of the establishment of the ‘Kingston University’ to secure its presence among its peers and the existing (pre-’92) university community. It was to be part of its visual identity, branding and messaging systems as it declared its presence in the competitive market for students. The desire to retain academic dress into the twenty-first century was an aim but not a given at that time. Over twenty-five years on, the use of Kingston’s academic dress by its award holders and staff continues strongly, not only at the graduation ceremony but also as part of reaffirming connection to its home town through the academic processions and Town Hall hosting.

8.5 Looking at the concerns expressed by Franklyn about the ‘freaks’ he saw being developed it is an interesting speculation on what he would have approved of and what would have provoked his normal ire! Perhaps the use of the full hood, the forms of the gowns and the headwear would have pleased him, but he would no doubt have been horrified that his systematic hood differentiation was not being used and that there were no undress robes. However academic dress has survived at Kingston into the twenty-first century with enthusiastic wearers happy to celebrate their success and wear it about the town on ceremony days—hat and all. Much as for the University in 1992, so for the graduates of the class of 2017 and no doubt 2019—cap, gown and hood in place—wear their academic dress because ... ‘It says we have arrived’.⁵¹

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⁵¹ Gibson, p. 102.

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from the following Kingston University staff (unless noted otherwise):

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Professor Bruce Christianson, retired University of Hertfordshire
Mrs Majatta Hannaford, widow of Ivan Hannaford, Associate Director
Miss Rebecca Hill, current Graduation Manager
Miss Alice Hynes, Academic Registrar
Dr Bob Smith, First Vice-Chancellor
Ms Françoise Sweeney, Deputy Academic Registrar
Mr Trevor Thorne, Head of External Affairs/Director of Marketing

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Appendix 9.1 Academic Dress Scheme (Wm. Northam & Co.)

Wm. Northam & Company Ltd
Robe Makers
Suppliers of Academic and Legal Regalia

	Sub Degree	
	Foundation Degree	
	Bachelor	
	Enhanced 1st Degree	
	PostGraduate	
	Master	

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Wm. Northam & Company Ltd

Robe Makers
Suppliers of Academic and Legal Regalia



Hon Master



PhD



DBA & EdD



Higher Doctorate



Hon Doc

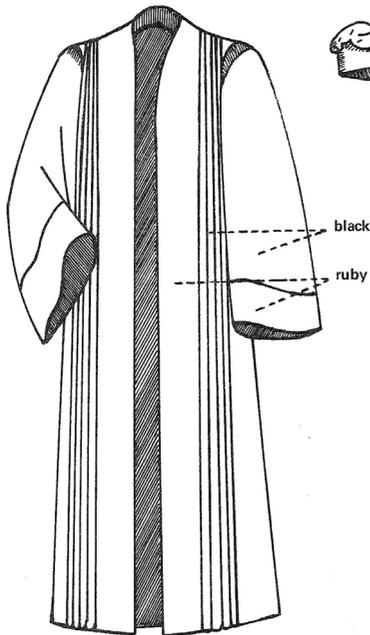


Visiting Professor



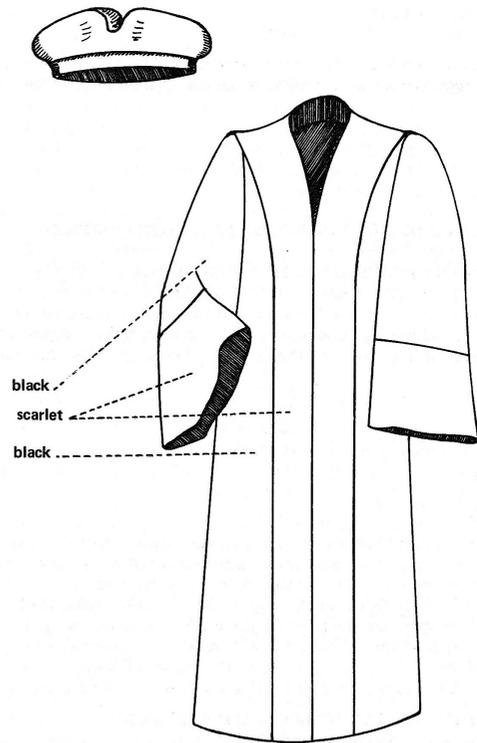
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Appendix 9.2 Extract from Hugh Smith on University of Cologne and University of Düsseldorf



Professor in the Faculty of Law

Cologne



Professor in the Faculty of Medicine

Düsseldorf

Plates 281 and 283 from Hugh Smith, assisted by Kevin Sheard, *Academic Dress and Insignia of the World: Gowns, Hats, Chains of Office, Hoods, Rings, Medals and Other Degree Insignia of Universities and Other Institutions of Learning*, 3 vols (Cape Town: A. A. Balkema, 1970).

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Appendix 9.3 Kingston University contemporaries

Sort	Loc	University	Date	Gown	Hood, hat	Key colours
KIN	E	Kingston University London	1992	Own shape gown Düsseldorf sub degree and degree; Cologne Master onwards	[f1] only Square cap, Bonnet both black	Black, turquoise blue, grey, silver
ABT	S	Abertay University	1994	[b1], [m12], [d3]	[a1], [f1] Square cap, Bonnet, both black	Blue, green, gold, maroon and 6 Faculty/award colours hoods
ARU	E	Anglia Ruskin University	1992	[b1], [m10], [d1]	[a1], [f1] Square cap, Bonnet, both blue	Dark blue, gold
BE1	E	University of Luton	1993–2006	[b4], [m10], [d1]	[a1], [f1] Square cap black, Bonnet blue velvet	Black, blue, green, white
BE2	E	University of Bedfordshire	2006	[b1] ,[b4], [m10], [d1]	[a1], [f1] Square cap, Bonnet, both black	Black, blue, red, white
BIC	E	Birmingham City University	1992/2007	[b1], [m10], [d1]	[a1], [f1] Square cap dark blue, Bonnet black	Dark blue, cream, gold, red
BOU	E	Bournemouth University	1992	[b1], [m10], [d1]	[a1], [f1] Square cap, Bonnet both black	Black, mid blue, gold, white
BRI	E	University of Brighton	1992	[b1], [m10], [d2]	[a1], [f3] use of silk Square cap, Bonnet, both black	Black, light blue, 'reflex' blue, pale purple
CLA	E	University of Central Lancashire	1993	[b1], [m10], [d1]	[s1], [a1], [f1] Square cap, Bonnet, black SC grey B	Black, grey, red
COV	E	Coventry University	1992	[b1], [m10], [d1]	[a1], [f1] Square cap, Bonnet, both black	Black, blue, gold
DEM	E	De Montfort University	1992	[b1], [m10]	[a1], [f1] Square cap, Bonnet, both black	Black, University Red = crushed strawberry pink/pale brick, with 11 Faculty colours
DER	E	University of Derby	1992	[b1], [m10], [d1]	[a1], [s2], [f1] Square cap, Bonnet, both black	Black, light blue, and dark blue, scarlet

Doctoral dress	Unusual features	Other notes & Burgon research
Dress only, One Univ hood Docs in grey + University blue	[f1] style and same single univ hood for all. Own shape Gown shows difference, University blue – Pantone	Shaw 3 pp. 234, 235 Research in progress: <i>Transactions</i> 2019, plus research ongoing on University officers and missing materials
Dress only, Docs in red-maroon	[a1] sub deg certs, dips	Shaw 3 pp. 59, 60, was University of Abertay, Dundee, to 2004
Dress only, Docs in blue	Cloister pattern in brocade; gold is dark almost orange [a1] just sub deg certs, dips	Shaw 3 pp. 63, 64, was Anglia Polytechnic University to 2005
Dress only, Docs in blue + white, green	[f1] PG onwards	Shaw 3 pp. 279, 280 Name changed to University of Bedfordshire
Dress only, Docs in red	Scarf for sub deg certs, dips & PG red & white, [f1] at masters, Docs see Luton	Shaw 3 pp. 77, 78, was University of Luton to 2006
Dress only, Docs in red-scarlet	[a1] sub deg certs, dips, foundation degree, cream brocade linings	Shaw 3 pp. 87, 88, was University of Central England Birmingham until 2007, Birmingham Conservatoire within University has own dress for own awards
Dress only, Docs in blue (mid) + gold	[a1] sub deg certs, dips	Shaw 3 pp. 93, 94
Dress only, Docs in red-claret + 'reflex' blue	[a1] sub deg certs, dips University damask with double elm leaf symbol	Shaw 3 pp. 98, 99, 'Reflex' blue is alkali blue pigment; it contains the mineral cobalt and is very, very strong in colour. Dress also specified for joint degrees
Undress & Dress, Docs in grey + red	[a1] was sub deg certs, dips but changed to [s1], University red damask	Shaw 3 pp. 120, 121
Undress & Dress, Docs in blue with gold	[a1] sub deg certs, dips, University damask blue, gold has phoenix symbol	Shaw 3 pp. 132, 133
Undress & Dress, Docs in black + gold, University red	Scarf for certs, dips in red & gold; Univ red -crushed strawberry pink, pale brick; has local building associations	Shaw 3, pp. 140, 141. Has a 're-graduation' hood <i>honoris causa re alumni</i> from predecessor institutions
Dress only gown hood but Dress and Undress hat, Docs in red-maroon	[a1] sub deg certs, dips	Shaw 3 pp. 143, 144

Sort	Loc	University	Date	Gown	Hood, hat	Key colours
EAL	E	University of East London	1992	[b1], [m10], [d1]	[a1], [f1] Square cap black, Bonnet blues	Dark blue, royal blue, chilli red
ENP1	S	Napier University	1992-2009	[b1], [m10]	[a1], [f3] No hat specified	Black, blue, crimson, Napier red & tartan, white and 10 Faculty colours
ENP2	S	Edinburgh Napier University	2009	[b1], [m12], [d1]	[s4], [f1] No hat specified	Black, blue, Napier red,
GLM	W	University of Glamorgan	1992-2013	[b1], [m10]	[f1] only Square cap, Bonnet, both black	Black, blue, gold
GLC1	S	Glasgow Caledonian University	1993-2010	[b8], [m12]	[s11] only No hat specified and explicitly excluded	Black, light blue, white, gold
GLC2	S	Glasgow Caledonian University	2010	[b1], [m12], [d1]	[s4], [f1] No hat specified and explicitly excluded	Black, light blue, white, gold and 6 Faculty colours for Bachelor/Masters
GRN	E	University of Greenwich	1992	[b1], [m10], [d1]	[s1], [f1] Square cap black, Bonnet gold damask	Black, blue, scarlet, gold
HER	E	University of Hertfordshire	1992	[b4], [m10], [d2]	[a1] only Square cap for all awards, black	Grey, purple, white
HUD	E	The University of Huddersfield	1992	[b1], [m10]	[a1] only Square cap, Bonnet, both black	Navy blue, cyan, red + 9 Faculty colours
LEB	E	Leeds Beckett University	1992	[b1], [m10], [d1]	[a1], [f3] Square cap, Bonnet, both black	Black, blue, green, gold, purple, red
LIN	E	University of Lincoln	1992	[b1], [m10], [d1]	[s6], [s5], [f1] Square cap, Bonnet, both black	Blue, yellow
LIV	E	Liverpool John Moores University	1992	[b1], [m10], [d1]	[a1], [f1] Square cap, Bonnet, both dark blue, sub degree certs/dips black	Dark blue, grey, scarlet

Doctoral dress	Unusual features	Other notes & Burgon research
Dress only, Docs in blue (royal)	[a1] sub deg & PG certs, dips, Chilli red silk damasked with University emblem	Shaw 3, pp. 165, 166
Dress only, Faculty colours for hoods, Docs as MPhil in black with Napier tartan	Used common hood across all awards but colour lined according to Faculty Napier tartan on Gown facing and other use on Masters, Docs	Shaw 3, pp. 173, 174, 175. Name changed to Edinburgh Napier University
Dress only, Docs in red +blue	Has Napier red = shade of maroon, Hoods with button holes for buttons on gowns	Shaw 3, pp. 173, 174, 175. Was Napier University to 2009, has new dress scheme from name change
Dress only, Docs in blue (dark)	Has 'G' logo in University silk embroidered blue & light gold Until 2002 sub deg hoods were [a1]	Shaw 3, pp. 183, 184. Was University of Glamorgan to 2013 now University of South Wales with new academic dress
Dress only, Faculty colours for hoods, Docs in black per MPhil	Had own shape of hood [s11] Hats specifically stated not to be part of academic dress	Shaw 3, pp. 190, 191, 192. Old scheme to 2010
Dress only, Docs in red + blue	Hats specifically stated not to be part of academic dress Changed dress in 2010	Shaw 3, pp. 190, 191, 192. Unclear why new dress scheme introduced 2010
Dress only, Docs in gold + scarlet, Docs gowns use St Aidan's damask in orange gold	[s1] sub deg certs, dips, Damask with Cloister pattern used in blue and gold, University scarlet silk incl University armorial bearings,	Shaw 3, pp. 196, 197. Dress also specified for joint degrees Medway Medical School
Undress & Dress, Docs in red (dark) + purple	[a1] all hoods	Shaw 3, pp. 204, 205. See book on Hertfordshire by Bruce Christianson
Dress only, Docs in red-cardinal + cyan	Faculty colour in Bachelor, Masters hoods	Shaw 3, pp. 211, 212. Linked to original Polytechnic hood peacock blue lined turquoise
Dress only, Docs in red-claret + blue, gold	[a1] all graduate and PG to Masters then [f3], previously [a1] for Masters	Shaw 3, pp. 247, 248 was Leeds Metropolitan University, Dress linked to 5 colours in University logo, cf. change in 2005
Dress only, Docs in red-claret + bright blue	[s5] foundn [s6] UG, PG [f1] MPhil onwards	Shaw 3, pp. 254, 255 was University of Humberside to 1996, then University of Lincoln and Humberside to 2001
Undress & Dress, Docs in red-scarlet with blue	[a1] sub deg, foundn degree. Has University silk embossed with armorial shield motif	Shaw 3, pp. 224, 225

Sort	Loc	University	Date	Gown	Hood, hat	Key colours
LMT 1a	E	London Guildhall University	1992-2002	[b1], [m1], [d2]	[s2], [f5] Square cap, Bonnet, both black	Black, scarlet, silver
LMT 1b	E	University of North London	1992-2002	[b1], [m10], [d1]	[f1] only Square cap, Bonnet, black SC blue b	Bright red, blue
LMT2	E	London Metropolitan University	2002	[b1], [m10], [d2]	[s1], [f1] Square cap black, Bonnet violet	Black, pale grey, violet
LSB	E	London South Bank University	1992	[b1], [m10], [d1]	[a1], [f1] Square cap, Bonnet, both black	Black, ultramarine blue, royal blue, silver
MAM	E	Manchester Metropolitan University	1992	[b2], [m10], [d1]	[s1], [f1] Square cap, Bonnet, both black	Black, blue, red
MST	E	UMIST University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology	1993	[b2], [m6], [d2]	[a1], [f13] Square cap, Bonnet, black SC blue B	Black, navy blue, terra-cotta, oyster white
MID	E	Middlesex University	1992	[b1], [b4], [m5], [d1]	[f1] only Square cap, Bonnet, both black, but Master of University grey	Black, royal blue, bright red, scarlet + 6 Faculty colours
NOR	E	University of Northumbria at Newcastle	1992	[b4], [m10], [d1]	[a1], [f1] Square cap black, Bonnet bright blue	Black, bright blue, royal blue, gold, red
NTT	E	Nottingham Trent University	1992	[b1], [m10], [d1]	[a1], [f1] Square cap, Bonnet, both black	Black, blue, green, maroon + 7 Faculty colours
OXB	E	Oxford Brookes University	1992	[b8], [m10], [d2]	[a1], [f1] Square cap, Bonnet, both black	Black, dark royal blue, cream, maroon
PLY	E	University of Plymouth	1992	[b8], [f2], [d1]	[a1], [f1] Square cap, Bonnet, both black	Black, blue/dark blue, terra-cotta orange
PO	E	University of Portsmouth	1992	[b8], [m2], [m10], [d1]	[s2], [a1], [f1] Square cap, Bonnet, both black	Violet, lilac, maroon + 11 Faculty colours
RGD	S	Robert Gordon University	1992	[b1], [m10], [d1]	[s1], [f1] Square cap, Bonnet, both black	Black, white
SHH	E	Sheffield Hallam University	1992	[b6], [m10], [d1]	[a1], [f1] Square cap for all awards, black	Black, silver grey, maroon

Doctoral dress	Unusual features	Other notes & Burgon research
Undress & Dress, Docs in black + scarlet	[f5] for Higher Docs only Black & scarlet silk damasked with University logo	Shaw 3, pp. 198, 199. Closed in 2002 to form London Metropolitan University
Dress only, Docs in blue		Shaw 3, pp. 304, 305. Closed in 2002 to form London Metropolitan University
Dress only, Docs in grey with violet	[f1] for PG onwards	Shaw 3, pp. 272, 273. Created from merging London Guildhall University and University of North London
Dress only, Docs in blue (royal) + other blues	[a1] sub deg certs, dips, has University silk, ultramarine blue with University coat of arms embroidered	Shaw 3, pp. 373, 374. Was Southbank University to 2003
Dress only, Docs in blue	University red silk with armorial achievement embroidered into it	Shaw 3, pp. 283, 284
Dress only, Docs in blue-navy with terracotta	[a1] sub-degree, degree and Masters, Hood colour re award eg BEng, BSc	Shaw 3, pp. 285, 286. Victorian origins and DAP, Univ status but awarded Victoria Manchester degrees to 1993. Merged into University of Manchester 2004
Undress & Dress, Docs in red-scarlet	University bright red	Shaw 3, pp. 291, 292
Dress only, Docs and MPhil in blue	[a1] sub deg certs, dips	Shaw 3, pp. 308, 309. Also known as Northumbria University
Dress only, Docs in red-maroon	[a1] sub deg certs, dips	Shaw 3, pp. 315, 316
Undress & Dress, Docs in red-maroon, embossed with University oak leaf	[a1] sub deg certs, dips, foundn, University Blue is dark royal blue	Shaw 3, pp. 324, 325
Dress only, Docs in terra-cotta	[a1] sub deg certs, dips, terra-cotta is deep orange	Shaw 3, pp. 329, 330. Dress also specified for joint degrees Peninsular Medical School
Dress only, Docs in red-scarlet	[s1] sub degree [a1] Foundn Has St Benet braid Calls Violet own 'Blue-Purple'	Shaw 3, pp. 332, 333, 334
Dress only, Docs in black	[s1] sub deg certs, dips University white silk embossed with devices	Shaw 3, pp. 340, 341
Dress only, Docs in red-maroon	[a1] sub deg certs, dips	Shaw 3, pp. 371, 372. Dress also specified for joint degrees

Sort	Loc	University	Date	Gown	Hood, hat	Key colours
STF	E	Staffordshire University	1992	[b4], [d1] for Masters and Docs	[s2], [f3] Square cap black, Masters grey, Bonnet scarlet velvet	Black, dark navy blue, grey, red
SUN	E	University of Sunderland	1992	[b1], [m10]	[a1], [s4], [f1] Square cap black, Bonnet dark blue	Black, dark blue, jade green, mauve, nasturtium orange
TEE	E	Teesside University	1992	[b1] grey sub deg, [b1] black Bachelor, [m2] red Master, [d1] red Docs	[a1] only Square cap, Bonnet, both black	Black, grey, red
WLN	E	The University of West London	1992	[b1], [m10], [d1]	[a1], [f1] Square cap for all awards, black	Black, gold, purple
WEB	E	University of the West of England, Bristol	1992	[b4], [m10], [d1]	[a1] only Square cap for all awards, black	Black, grey, maroon red
WSC	S	University of West of Scotland	1992/2007	[b1], [m10], [d1]	[s2], [f1] Square cap, Bonnet, both black	Black, grey, red
WST	E	The University of Westminster	1992	[b1], [m10], [d2]	[s2], [a1], [f5] Square cap, Bonnet, both black	Black, blue, claret, mauve, maroon, silver grey
WOL	E	University of Wolverhampton	1992	[b8], [m10], [d2]	[a1] only Square cap, Bonnet, both black	Black, gold, red/crimson red

TOTALS

Total gown use		Total hood use	
Shape	No.	Shape	No.
[b1]	32	[a1]	31
[b4]	7	[a1] only	5
[b8]	5	[f1]	34
[m10]	35	[f1] only	4
[m12]	4	[s2]	6
[d1]	30	[s1]	6
[d2]	8	[s2]	6

Doctoral dress	Unusual features	Other notes & Burgon research
Dress only, Docs in red-scarlet But no sleeve lining, facings	[s2] all UG, [f3] PG onwards Shaw query on Masters gown, and Docs sleeve linings & hood progression	Shaw 3, pp. 380, 381
Dress only, Docs in dark blue	[a1] certs, dips and UG Masters and Higher Docs, Masters & Docs [f1]	Shaw 3, pp. 390, 391
Dress only, Docs in red + grey	[a1] style and same single University hood for all, Gowns show difference re awards	Shaw 3, pp. 402, 403
Undress & Dress, Docs in purple	[a1] sub deg certs, dips, foundn, gold is vivid - near saffron	Shaw 3, pp. 419, 420. Was Thames Valley University to 2011, London Coll. of Music within University has own dress for own awards
Undress & Dress, Docs in red	[a1] for all, Cloister pattern brocade hood lining	Shaw 3, pp. 421, 422. Also known as University of West of England; UWE; UWE, Bristol
Dress only, Docs in black + red	[s2] sub deg & PG certs, dips, Red bro- cade Linings & border trims in paisley design	Shaw 3, pp. 423, 424. Was University of Paisley to 2007 when merged with Bell College
Undress & Dress, Colors for different awards eg BA, MEng, DSc, Docs in red-ma- roon +silver grey	[a1] for PG, [s2] UG, Masters, [f5] Docs, Had academic dress and own colour scheme as Polytechnic	Shaw 3, pp. 425, 426. See <i>Burgon Soci- ety Annual 2003</i> essay on Westminster by Philip Goff
Undress & Dress, Docs in red-crimson + gold	[a1] for all	Shaw 3, pp. 429, 430

Doctoral dress use	No.
Undress & Dress	12
Dress only	34
Docs in grey	3
Docs in blue	11
Docs in red, reds	22
Docs in black	6