

# Te Rā Whakawhiwhi Tohu | Timaru Graduation Guide



These details are subject to change. Please visit [www.ara.ac.nz/graduation](http://www.ara.ac.nz/graduation) for the most up-to-date information.

## DATE

Thursday 30 April 2026, 2pm

## VENUE

Caroline Bay Hall, Timaru.  
1 Virtue Avenue, Māori Hill, Timaru, 7910

## GRADUATION ARRIVAL AND PROCESSION

The Graduation Procession begins one hour before the ceremony starts. Please arrive by 12.40pm.

Graduands are to assemble by the Trevor Griffiths Rose Gardens in Caroline Bay, at the bottom of the Piazza stairs, 20 minutes prior to the Graduation Procession. Guests and public are encouraged to watch the procession from the Caroline Bay Soundshell area.

### Parade Procession start time 1pm

## CEREMONY START TIME

Guests of graduates are to be seated 20 minutes before the ceremony start time.

### Ceremony Procession start time 2pm

## GRADUATION STUDENT ASSEMBLY

Graduates are to assemble at Caroline Bay Hall in the order they will be awarded. On arrival:

1. Find the row your department is in (A or B)
2. Find the name of your qualification.
3. Find the sign on the ground that has your qualification name on it and stand behind it.
4. The marshals will then arrange you in alphabetical order, ready to proceed into the hall.
5. You need to stay in order to ensure you are ready to cross the stage when your name is called.
6. The Head Marshal will brief you on the details of the graduation ceremony. Then at a signal from the Head Marshal you will move in procession into the hall. Stay in order, and follow the directions of the marshals, who will direct you to your seat.

## GRADUATION CEREMONY

1. After the welcome and introductions, you will be called to receive your graduation parchment scroll. Marshals will direct you when to leave your seat.
2. File from your seat to the side of the stage and wait for your name to be checked.
3. When directed by the marshal, proceed across the stage.
4. You will shake hands with two people as you cross the stage.
5. If you are receiving a bachelor's degree, you will be ceremonially capped; you may then place your trencher on your head.
6. Move across to the second person on stage who will hand you a parchment scroll and shake hands with you.
7. Once you have received your parchment scroll, leave the stage down the central steps and return to your seat.

Watch our '[How to Graduate Guide](#)' for a better understanding of what to expect on the day.

## TICKETING / GUEST SEATING

All graduates are entitled to up to three tickets free of charge to the graduation for friends and whānau. You request these when you register for graduation, and your tickets will be available when you collect your regalia. Tickets are general admission only (not reserved seating).

If you would like to request extra tickets, you can also do this when you register for graduation. We try our best to accommodate these requests, but unfortunately this is not always possible as there is limited availability. Extra tickets will not be confirmed until after registration closes (this is so we can ensure all graduates receive their guaranteed tickets).

## ACCESSIBILITY

If you or any of your guests have special mobility or access needs, please let us know by contacting us at [graduation@ara.ac.nz](mailto:graduation@ara.ac.nz).

If you or any of your guests communicate by NZ Sign Language, we will have an interpreter at the ceremony.

## TIPS FOR ON THE DAY

1. Linton Photography are the official photographers for graduation. A studio will be set up at the venue so you can have portraits taken with whānau or friends. A limited number of session times are available to book, and sessions are also available on a first come, first served basis before and after your ceremony. Photographs will also be taken of every graduate as they are presented with their award on stage. To find out more or book a session time please phone 03 339 6699 or visit [www.lintonphoto.com/graduation](http://www.lintonphoto.com/graduation).
2. Regalia - ensure you arrive at the venue already dressed and in your regalia.
3. Please leave personal items (e.g. handbags, mobile phones, flowers, etc) with your guests during the course of the procession and graduation ceremony.

## ONLINE STREAMING

If any of your friends or family are unable to attend your graduation, our graduation ceremonies are streamed live on the Ara website on the day.

## REGALIA

As part of the formal graduation ceremony, you are required to wear official Ara regalia. If you are not wearing regalia, you will not be able to cross the stage.

GWC Regalia Hire own and maintain the regalia for Ara ceremonies and graduates are responsible for ordering their own regalia directly through them.

A link to order your regalia will be sent to grandaunts closer to the graduation ceremony. It is appreciated if you can place your order as soon as possible. The regalia is delivered from Christchurch, so late orders are not possible.

Some graduates also add traditional elements such as korowai or ta'ōvala. These may be worn over your academic gown. If you are wearing one of these elements, please request a lighter-weight gown when ordering your regalia.

## COLLECTING AND RETURNING REGALIA

You can collect your regalia from Ara's Starz Restaurant at Timaru Campus, from 2-5.30pm on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April.

If you are unable to collect your regalia, a family member or friend can collect it on your behalf. However, you **MUST** give your nominated collection person your correct height measurement, and if you are eligible to wear a trencher, your head circumference (measured just above the ears).

Regalia must be returned, in good order, immediately following the ceremony - you must return your regalia before you leave Caroline Bay Hall. There is a late return fee of \$50 if the regalia isn't returned on time.

### **Penalties for non-return of regalia**

Please be aware if regalia is not returned you will be charged at replacement cost which is:

Gown	\$650
Hood	\$180
Trencher Hat	\$225
Scarf	\$100

## REGALIA REFUND POLICY

If you notify Ara that you are withdrawing from your graduation ceremony by Monday 20th April at latest, you will receive a full refund of your regalia hire costs minus a \$10 administration fee. However, in the event you do not collect your regalia and do not let us know in advance, there are no refunds.

If you are prevented from attending graduation at the last minute due to illness or travel disruption, you can hire your regalia for photos or a private ceremony at another time.

To advise your withdrawal from a graduation ceremony, please email [graduation@ara.ac.nz](mailto:graduation@ara.ac.nz)

## REGALIA ITEM HIRE COSTS

The hire cost of your regalia will depend on the qualification you are receiving.

Regalia	Cost
Ara scarf (certificate or diploma)	\$15
Gown	\$40
Ara hood	\$20
Trencher Hat	\$20

If you are receiving	Do you have a previous degree?	You will need
Certificate	No previous degree	Gown, Ara certificate scarf
	Yes – NZ or overseas degree	Gown, trencher, Ara certificate scarf
Diploma	No previous degree	Gown, Ara diploma scarf
	Yes – NZ or overseas degree	Gown, trencher, Ara diploma scarf
Graduate Diploma or Graduate Certificate	No previous degree	Gown, trencher, Ara diploma/certificate scarf
	Yes – NZ or overseas degree	Gown, trencher, Ara diploma/certificate scarf
Degree	No previous degree	Gown, trencher, Ara hood
	Yes – wear new Ara hood	Gown, trencher, Ara hood
Postgraduate Certificate or Diploma	Yes - wear new Ara hood	Gown, trencher, Ara postgraduate hood
Masters	Yes - wear new Ara hood	Gown, trencher, Ara Masters hood

## REGALIA ITEMS

### Gown

A black, Cambridge-style gown is worn under the Ara graduation scarf or hood. The sleeves on the Cambridge gown have two openings:

- graduates for a certificate, diploma or degree that have no previous degree use the lower opening
- any graduate with a previous degree, new degree, graduate certificate, graduate diploma, postgraduate or Masters use the higher opening

### Diploma and certificate scarf

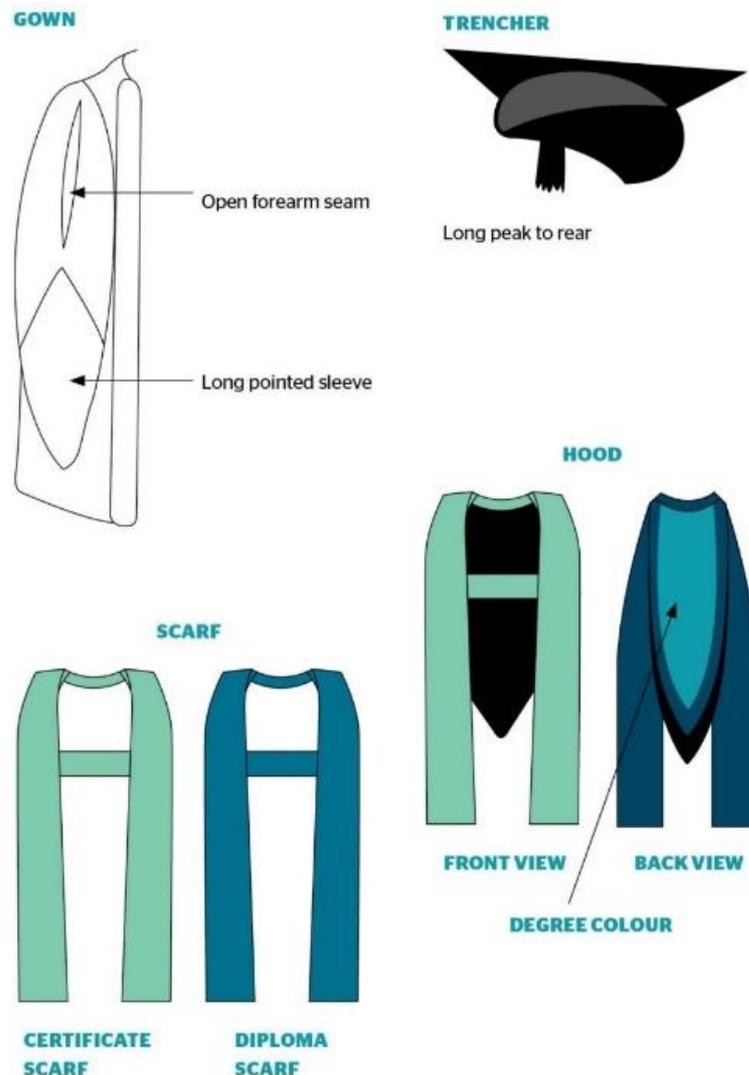
A diploma scarf (dark teal) is worn by graduates receiving diplomas or graduate diplomas and a certificate scarf (light teal) is worn by graduates receiving certificates or graduate certificates.

### Degree hood

The degree hood incorporates an Ara diploma scarf. The hood is worn with the scarf sitting on the shoulders and the hood hanging down the wearer's back.

### Hood lining colours

Each degree hood lining is a different colour denoting the degree being conferred



<b>Degree (Bachelor of)</b>	<b>Hood Colour</b>	<b>Department</b>
Applied Management	Sky Blue	Hospitality, Business & Service Industries
Applied Science	Indigo	Applied Sciences and Social Practice
Architectural Studies	Camel	Engineering & Architectural Studies
Broadcasting Communications	Silver Grey	Creative Arts & Digital Information
Construction	Rust	Engineering & Architectural Studies
Design	Yellow	Creative Arts & Digital Information
Engineering Technology	Scarlet	Engineering & Architectural Studies
Information & Communication Technologies	Jade	Hospitality, Business & Service Industries
Language (Japanese)	Pink	Humanities
Language (Māori)	Scarlet & Kowhaiwhai	Humanities
Medical Imaging	Irish Green	Health Practice
Midwifery	Burnished Gold	Health Practice
Musculoskeletal	Cobalt Blue	Applied Sciences and Social Practice
Musical Arts	Old Gold	Creative Arts & Digital Information
Nursing	Purple	Health Practice
Performing Arts	Orange	Creative Arts & Digital Information
Social Work	Red	Applied Sciences and Social Practice
Sustainability & Outdoor Education	Forest Green	Humanities
Tourism and Hospitality Management	Blue Sapphire	Hospitality, Business & Service Industries
Post Graduate Certificates and Diplomas	Gold	All Departments
Masters	Gold with blue stripes	All Departments

Note: If you already have a degree and are now receiving an Ara degree, you are required to wear the Ara regalia. It's not appropriate to wear two hoods.