

How to pin a hood onto a gown...

The basic principle is that from the front, the graduands should simply be resplendent in black and white – with just a hint of ‘colour’ (of their hood) on their left shoulder.

The hoods were originally designed for men with broader shoulders and to be held in place by hooking onto the second button of their shirt and under their bow tie.

The same effect can be achieved on a woman by pinning the neckband of the hood onto the lapel of the gown at the level of the collarbone. When pinned at this level, the hood will then fall back from the shoulders as opposed to resting on the shoulders. **Only use two pins – one on each collarbone.**

Whilst from the front, all of the graduands should be resplendent in black and white, from the back one should be able to see their academic rank by the colour of their hood.

The hood should be so folded as to show 4-6 inches of the coloured lining of the hood. It should then not simply hang down as regular coat hoods, for example, tend to do, but it should be folded over to the left and positioned in the centre of the back. Once placed, run the back of your hand down the hood to smooth it down.

It should lie flat in the centre of the back. Positioned in this way means that it is less likely to slip from the shoulders and also there is less movement when walking, meaning that the hood should remain in place.

So, the Six Steps to Hood Success are as follows:

1. Place hood over head and align the two ends of the neckband with the collarbones.
2. Pin the gown into place by coming from up under the lapel of the gown and pinning through one layer of the hood’s neckband (so that the pin does not show through). Repeat on the other side. **Only use two pins in total** – extra pins can be added in the Senate-House if required.
3. Align off the shoulders so that the ‘colour’ of the hood can be seen only on the left-hand side.
4. Then go round the back: turn over 4-6 inches of the hood so that the ‘colour’ can be seen.
5. Then smooth out the hood by holding the point with your right hand and gently pulling it straight towards you.
6. Fold the hood to the left, ensuring that the hood is positioned in the centre of the back.

What it should look like:

