



# Awards Ceremonies Graduating Class of 2026

13 - 16 July 2026

Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff Bay



Cardiff  
Metropolitan  
University

Prifysgol  
Metropolitan  
Caerdydd

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# Congratulations from the University's Chancellor

As Chancellor, I congratulate you on reaching this important milestone and on taking your place at today's graduation ceremony.

Graduation is a moment to celebrate not only your academic success, but also the dedication, resilience and determination that has brought you here. Your achievements are the result of hard work, perseverance and a commitment to your goals.

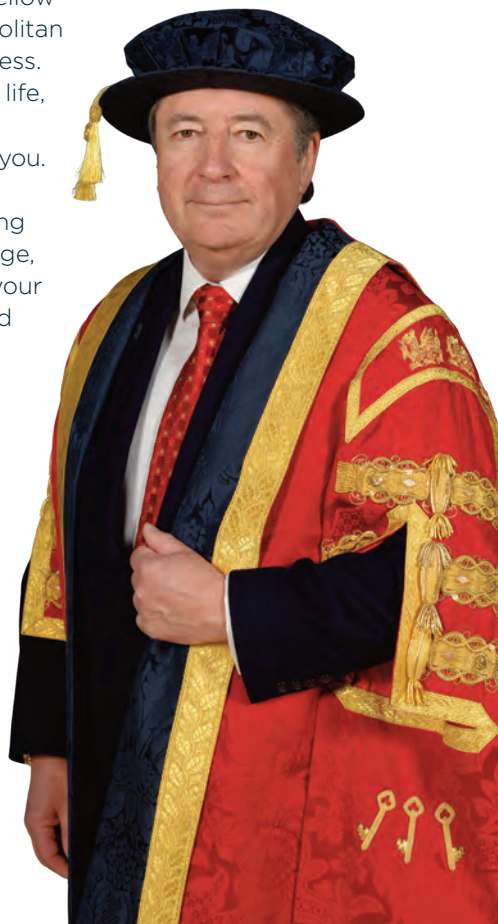
Today, you are surrounded by family, friends, fellow graduates and members of the Cardiff Metropolitan University community, who all share your success. As you look ahead to the next chapter of your life, I hope you do so with confidence, ambition and excitement for the opportunities that lie before you.

The world continues to change at pace, bringing both challenges and possibilities. The knowledge, skills and friendships you have gained during your time here will help you navigate that future and make a positive impact wherever your journey takes you.

So very well done, thank you for choosing Cardiff Metropolitan University. We are very proud of what you have achieved.

Today is not a goodbye, on the contrary, we look forward to a lifelong relationship with you, as one of this University's alumni. Enjoy your day, keep in touch and let us know about your future successes too!

**Stephen Wordsworth CMG LVO**



# Pro-Chancellor & Honorary President

As Lord Mayor of Cardiff, it is my privilege to hold the office of Pro-Chancellor & Honorary President at Cardiff Metropolitan University.



It is a great honour to mark the beginning of your Graduation ceremonies and to celebrate this important milestone with you in such a special venue.

Having made Cardiff my home for many years, I have seen first-hand the strength of our communities and the transformative power of education. Your time at Cardiff Met has equipped you with the knowledge, skills and confidence to take your next steps, and I have no doubt you will make a positive contribution in your chosen fields.

Throughout my career and public service, I have been proud to support community initiatives across the city, and it is inspiring to see graduates who will continue to shape Cardiff's future.

As Pro-Chancellor & Honorary President of Cardiff Metropolitan University, I extend my congratulations to you all on your achievements and, as Lord Mayor, send best wishes from the City and County of Cardiff for your future success.

**Councillor Michael Michael**  
**The Right Honourable**  
**the Lord Mayor of Cardiff**

# Welcome from the University's Chair of the Board of Governors

On behalf of the Board of Governors, I would like to offer my congratulations on your graduation and the award you will receive today.

This is a significant achievement and a moment to celebrate everything you have accomplished during your time at Cardiff Metropolitan University. Your success reflects the commitment, determination and hard work, and you should be proud of what you have achieved.

Working alongside the Vice-Chancellor and University staff, the Board of Governors is committed to ensuring that every student has the best possible experience during their time with us. You have been valued members of our community, and that connection does not end with graduation. As a Cardiff Met graduate, you will always be part of the University, and we encourage you to stay connected with us wherever life takes you.

As your career and personal journey develop, I also encourage you to continue making a positive contribution to the communities and causes that matter to you. By using your talents, values and influence to create meaningful change, you can help shape a better future for those around you.

Congratulations once again on this remarkable achievement. Enjoy this special day and all the opportunities that lie ahead.

**John Taylor CBE**





# Welcome from the University's President & Vice-Chancellor

A very warm welcome to your Cardiff Metropolitan University Graduation Ceremony.

It is such a privilege to be able to share the culmination of your successful university journeys with you today, and on behalf of the whole university community, I offer you my sincere congratulations.

Today is a special day, a celebration of your talent, your commitment, and your ambition. You have earned your place here today through immense hard work; all of my colleagues and I are incredibly proud of what you have achieved. We hope that you take time a little time to reflect on your achievements, and that you really enjoy today's celebration with your families, friends and supporters.

Your graduation day marks the successful completion of your degree studies. Take a moment to look back with pride on how what you have learnt and how you have developed, and look forward to your future with confidence. The knowledge, skills, and resilience you have built during your time at Cardiff Met will help guide you through the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

From today, you join our vibrant, global community of Cardiff Metropolitan University alumni. Our graduates are a source of great pride to us. We hope you will stay close to Cardiff Met as you make your journey forward, sharing your stories and inspiring the generations that follow you, wherever your path may lead.

We wish you every success, fulfilment, and happiness for the future, and we hope that today is a wonderful day of celebration.

**Professor Rachael Langford**  
**BA MA PhD FRSA**  
**President and Vice-Chancellor**

# Procession

The Academic Procession is made up of those listed below and will enter in the following order:

## **Chief Marshal**

### **Members of Academic Staff**

#### **President of the Students' Union**

Ashhar Khan –  
SU Experience & Inclusion President  
Suzann George –  
SU Education & Welfare President  
Muskaan Ali –  
SU Activities & Communities President

#### **Chaplain**

A Bahadur-Kutkut

#### **Dean of Cardiff School of Art & Design**

Dr B Gordon BSc (Hons) MSc PGCE  
PhD FHEA

#### **Acting Dean of Cardiff School of Education & Social Policy**

Dr C Hannigan-Davies Bed, MSc PhD  
SFHEA MBCS CITP MAPM

#### **Acting Dean of Cardiff School of Sport & Health Sciences**

Dr H Wiltshire, BSc, PHD, SFHEA

#### **Dean of Cardiff School of Technologies**

Professor J T Platts BEng MSc PhD  
CEng FIET MInstMC

#### **Dean of Cardiff School of Management & Pro Vice-Chancellor Business, Global and Civic Engagement**

Professor D J Brooksbank BSc MSc  
PhD PGCE FHEA CCMI FRSA FLSW

#### **Dean of Teaching & Learning**

Professor J Longville BA PGCE MSc

#### **Pro Vice-Chancellor Research & Innovation**

Professor S Hanton BA MSc PhD  
FAASP

#### **University Secretary**

R Davies MSc

#### **Deputy Vice-Chancellor & Provost**

Professor K Thirlaway BSc PhD  
PFHEA HCPC

#### **President & Vice-Chancellor**

Professor R Langford BA MA  
PhD FRSA

#### **Pro-Chancellor & Honorary President of Cardiff Metropolitan University The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of Cardiff**

Councillor Michael Michael

#### **Chair of Governors**

J Taylor CBE

#### **Chancellor**

S Wordsworth CMG LVO



# Order of Ceremony

Entry Procession

Formal opening of the ceremony

President & Vice-Chancellor's address

Presentation of the graduands

Admittance of the graduands to their degree

The final address

Formal closing of the ceremony

Exit Procession

## Presentation of Awards

Graduands will be presented by the Dean of the appropriate School or the designated nominee. Students who have elected to receive their initial degrees in praesentia will be presented according to their award nomenclature, by the Presenter who will say: *"President & Vice-Chancellor (or nominee), I present to you students who have been awarded..."*

The Presiding Executive admits graduands with the words: *"Through the authority vested in me by Cardiff Metropolitan University, I admit you to your awards and to all the privileges of those awards."*



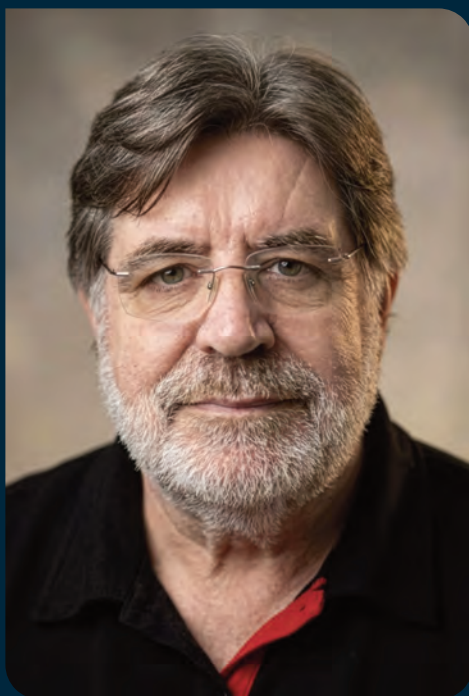
## Award of an Honorary Doctorate

### Mark Dacey

Mark Dacey, Principal and Chief Executive Officer of NPTC Group of Colleges, is to be awarded an Honorary Doctorate in recognition of his outstanding contribution to further education, skills development and public life in Wales.

With nearly three decades of senior leadership experience, Mark has played a transformative role in shaping further education across Neath Port Talbot and south west Wales. Since becoming Principal of Neath Port Talbot College in 2004, and later Group Chief Executive in 2013, he has led significant growth, establishing the College Group as a leading provider of education and training for learners, employers and communities.

Mark's journey is an inspiring example of lifelong learning and social mobility. Leaving school at 15 with no formal qualifications, he progressed through further education before continuing his studies at Cardiff University, the then Polytechnic of Wales and the University of Strathclyde. He has since achieved extensive academic and professional qualifications and is a Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (FRICS).



His career spans teaching, curriculum leadership and senior management, alongside national service as one of Her Majesty's Inspectors for Education and Training. He continues to contribute to public life through leadership roles supporting young people, communities and regional development.

Monday 13 July 2026 10.00am / 1.30pm / 4.00pm

## Cardiff School of Sport & Health Sciences

- The congregation is requested to stand during the Academic Procession.
- Professor Sheldon Hanton, Pro Vice-Chancellor Research and Innovation (10.00am) and Professor Rachael Langford, President and Vice-Chancellor (1.30pm and 4.00pm), will address the audience for the formal opening of the ceremony.
- Dr Huw Wiltshire, Acting Dean of Cardiff School of Sport & Health Sciences (10.00am and 4.00pm), and Dr Lowri Mainwaring, Deputy Dean (1.30pm) will present the Graduands.
- Students will now be called individually to cross the stage.
- Presiding Officer of the University will admit the Graduands.
- John Taylor CBE, Chair of Governors will make the final address.
- Following the formal closing of the ceremony, the congregation is requested to stand during the Academic Procession.





### Winner

Cardiff School of  
Sport & Health Sciences  
Dean's Award 2026

Tanis Hanniford  
BSc (Hons) Food Science

### Winner

Cardiff School of  
Sport & Health Sciences  
Dean's Award 2026

Chris Wilkins  
BSc (Hons) SCRaM

Tuesday 14 July 2026 10.00am

## Cardiff School of Art & Design

- The congregation is requested to stand during the Academic Procession.
- Professor Katie Thirlaway Deputy Vice-Chancellor, will address the audience for the formal opening of the ceremony.
- Dr Bethan Gordon, Dean of Cardiff School of Art & Design, will present the Graduands.
- Students will now be called individually to cross the stage.
- Professor Katie Thirlaway Deputy Vice Chancellor, will admit the Graduands.
- John Taylor CBE, Chair of the Board of Governors will make the final address.
- Following the formal closing of the ceremony, the congregation is requested to stand during the Academic Procession.

Tuesday 14 July 2026 1.30pm

## Cardiff School of Technologies / Cardiff School of Management

- The congregation is requested to stand during the Academic Procession.
- Katie Thirlaway, Deputy Vice Chancellor Professor, will address the audience for the formal opening of the ceremony.
- Professor David Brooksbank, Dean of Cardiff School of Management and Professor Jon Platts, Dean of Cardiff School of Technologies, will present the Graduands.
- Students will now be called individually to cross the stage.
- Katie Thirlaway, Deputy Vice Chancellor Professor, will admit the Graduands.
- John Taylor CBE, Chair of Governors will make the final address.
- Following the formal closing of the ceremony, the congregation is requested to stand during the Academic Procession.



### Winner

Cardiff School of  
Technologies  
**Dean's Award 2026**

Amirhossein Hajianfar  
BSc (Hons) Computer  
Science (Artificial  
Intelligence)

### Winner

Cardiff School of  
Art & Design  
**Dean's Award 2026**

Samuel Dowling  
BA (Hons) Ceramics

Wednesday 15 July 2026 10.00am / 1:30pm

## Cardiff School of Management

- The congregation is requested to stand during the Academic Procession.
- Professor Rachael Langford, President & Vice-Chancellor, will address the audience for the formal opening of the ceremony.
- Professor David Brooksbank, Dean of Cardiff School of Management & Pro Vice-Chancellor Business, Global and Civic Engagement, will present the Graduands.
- Students will now be called individually to cross the stage.
- Professor Rachael Langford, President & Vice-Chancellor, will admit the Graduands.
- Stephen Wordsworth CMG LVO, Chancellor will make the final address.
- Following the formal closing of the ceremony, the congregation is requested to stand during the Academic Procession.





## Winner

Cardiff School of  
Management  
**Dean's Award 2026**

Finlay Spaargaren  
BA Business & Management  
(Marketing)

Thursday 16 July 2026 10.00am / 1:30pm

## Cardiff School of Education & Social Policy

- The congregation is requested to stand during the Academic Procession.
- Professor Rachael Langford, President & Vice-Chancellor, will address the audience for the formal opening of the ceremony.
- Dr Cecilia Hannigan-Davies, Acting Dean of Cardiff School of Education & Social Policy, will present the Graduands.
- Students will now be called individually to cross the stage.
- Professor Rachael Langford, President & Vice-Chancellor, will admit the Graduands.
- Stephen Wordsworth CMG LVO, Chancellor will make the final address.
- Following the formal closing of the ceremony, the congregation is requested to stand during the Academic Procession.



A group of graduates in black gowns with yellow stoles are celebrating, throwing their caps into the air. The background is dark and out of focus.

## Winner

Cardiff School of  
Education & Social Policy  
**Dean's Award 2026**

Anna Davidge  
BSc (Hons) Education,  
Psychology and SEN

# Welcome to the Cardiff Met Graduate Community



**Congratulations on completing your studies!**  
**You are joining a global community of Cardiff Metropolitan University alumni.**

To keep you up to date with all the latest Cardiff Met news and updates, you have been registered on our database. You also have access to a range of benefits, including:

- ✓ Alumni discount for eligible postgraduate programmes - check our website for up-to-date information
- ✓ Careers support after graduation
- ✓ Discounted gym and sports membership
- ✓ Access to learning centres on campus

Access your account: **[alumni.cardiffmet.ac.uk](https://alumni.cardiffmet.ac.uk)**

Keep your details up to date  
**[www.cardiffmet.ac.uk/alumni](https://www.cardiffmet.ac.uk/alumni)**

We look forward to hearing about your future successes!



# Your next step

You could qualify for the Cardiff Met Alumni Discount. *Visit our website for full details.*



**Congratulations from everyone at Cardiff Met on your graduation. It is a culmination of hard work and dedication, and a fantastic achievement that we hope you enjoy celebrating with friends, family and loved ones.**

If you're thinking about what's next, then postgraduate or further research study may be something you've considered. By continuing your academic journey with us, you will be part of a growing postgraduate and research community with over 3,000 students from across the world. Our programmes will further develop your specialist subject knowledge, enhance your career prospects and provide a springboard for further study.

Find out more at  
[www.cardiffmet.ac.uk/postgraduate](http://www.cardiffmet.ac.uk/postgraduate)



# Thank you

## **Cardiff Metropolitan University would like to thank the following sponsors:**

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Dylan Rowlands  
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Natalie Webb  
Oxford University Press  
Potclays  
Rio Architects  
S A Brain  
Steven Harding  
The Association of Tourism in Higher Education  
The Royal Society of Biology  
Wales Millennium Centre  
Zoe Pieris

## **The families and friends who donate prizes in memory of:**

Alan Barrett-Danes  
Bert Jones  
Causero  
David Leonard  
Dilys Price  
Gareth Jones  
Helen Gregory  
John Dobson  
Lavinia Bletchley  
Louise Fielding

Mike Wadsworth  
Mrs Robert Picton  
Neville Gaunt  
Non Thomas  
Non-Lane  
Rachel Stickler  
Ray Newberry  
Ria Blakeman  
Richard Morris  
Susan Clease



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# The Cusp

Isobel Stevens  
MA Creative Writing



Once again you find yourself on the cusp of something –  
These nerves are more familiar than you think they are;  
you've met them before –

on move-in day, in the hiss of automatic doors on  
Llandaff or Cyncoed.

They've greeted you at the first society-meeting  
or the first step out as an archer,

You were brave enough to make the change

Greeting it with fear, with uncertainty

But from the apprehension, created a new life from  
the old one left behind.

Today, in your chair, wearing pride in the shape of a hat,

Accomplishment in the fall of your gown –

Let these achievements be a reminder that you have  
always been able to do it.

If you think back, you were on the cusp of it then –

The first friends, who now greet you with the warmth  
of years.

The first epiphany. The moment where your learning  
transforms into knowledge.

A discovery lit a spark that you turn into a passion.

Nurturing your independence, shaping a  
new beginning,

You looked around Cardiff and realised this is all yours  
and you can reinvent yourself everyday if you want.

You find joy in recognising and recognition;

First it's learning your bus route, then it's a shortcut to take you where you need to be.

Small talk with the person next to you becomes inside jokes, sharing a house, entering each other's spaces and lives like it's your home.

You were on the cusp of it then -

Learning about yourself and the place you have in the world.

The long nights, early starts - making the most out of the time when you had it.

This soon will be a recollection, so take some time to linger.

Remember who you were and bask in who you have become.

To get through university - you, now

About to take the stage.

You, Cardiff Met soon-to-be graduate.

You, hard-working  
and dedicated.

You, who once again  
finds yourself on the cusp  
of something -

You are more familiar with the  
future, and all that it promises  
than you think.

Tomorrow you will have become  
something new but today,

Relish in the glory of your  
devotion and hard work.

This is not the end,

Right here, right now,

You are on the cusp of  
something beautiful.





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Every effort has been made to ensure the information  
in this programme is accurate at the time of publication.