

CIPS UK Graduation Ceremony 2026 - FAQ's

CIPS UK Graduation Ceremony is open to all members who are currently MCIPS, and have achieved this via one of the following programmes of learning:

- CIPS Professional Diploma in Procurement and Supply
- CIPS Advanced Practitioner (Corporate Award)
- CIPS Accredited Degree

Please note; to book a place, you must be a current MCIPS member. Membership status can be checked on the [CIPS Professional Register](#). Upgrading is simple, you can upgrade to MCIPS here (please allow up to six weeks for your MCIPS upgrade to take place).

Why are we asking members to have a minimum of current MCIPS membership to Graduate?

The CIPS Graduation Ceremony is a celebration for members who have achieved MCIPS via a CIPS recognised programme of learning.

Those with MCIPS are recognised globally as procurement and supply professionals. Being MCIPS signifies that you that you have attained a level of knowledge and understanding, based on the professional level of the CIPS Global Standard in Procurement and Supply, and that you have three years relevant work experience in procurement and supply role.

Being MCIPS provides assurance for your employer, peers and clients that you have continued to build on your academic achievements to stay relevant and up to date.

Why can I not attend if I achieved MCIPS via the Management Entry Route?

Your achievement has been recognised by CIPS based on your experience not a learning programme. The CIPS Graduation Ceremony is a celebration of successful completion of a CIPS recognised learning programme.

When do bookings close?

Bookings will close at 23:59 GMT on Monday 2nd March 2026. **However, we are likely to sell out of tickets ahead of this, so be sure to book as soon as you can.**

International Graduates

If you require a VISA to attend the ceremony, please be aware that CIPS is not able to communicate with the High Commission on your behalf and cannot act as a guarantor for you to travel to the UK. We can however supply you with an official booking confirmation letter once you have booked to attend. Please ensure you have booked your place before requesting a booking confirmation letter. We can only supply this letter for the Graduate, and not any guests attending.

How much does it cost to attend?

For £100.00 you can purchase your student ticket, one guest ticket, hire your robe and purchase the photography package from our Graduation services supplier William Northam. One additional guest ticket can be purchased for £40.

How many guest tickets can Graduates apply for?

One guest ticket is included in the Graduate package as above. One additional guest ticket can be purchased for £40 on booking. If you are interested in bringing more than two guests, additional guest tickets will be made available and are on a first-come first-served basis after bookings close. You will be emailed once extra guest tickets are available.

Are children allowed to attend the Graduation ceremony?

Our Graduation ceremony is a family occasion, and we welcome your child's attendance on this special day. Baby changing facilities are available. **Any child that requires their own seat must have a guest ticket purchased for them and will count towards your guest ticket allocation.**

When will Graduates receive their tickets?

Graduates do not receive any physical tickets but will receive a booking confirmation via email. You will be allocated a seat number on the day when you arrive.

What if a Graduate or their guest(s) have specific requirements?

Arrangements can be made for anyone attending the graduation ceremony, either as a Graduate or a guest who may have accessibility requirements or other needs. If Graduates or guests have accessibility requirements, please contact us by emailing graduation@cips.org.

What should Graduates wear for the ceremony?

We suggest that you wear smart business dress. The gown hood has a loop in front designed to hook over a button which keeps it tidy and in place: it is easier therefore if you wear a shirt, blouse or dress with buttons. We politely request that jeans or t-shirts are not worn.

What time should Graduates arrive for the ceremony and how long does it last?

Doors will be open from 09:30, and robing will commence straight away. You may arrive anytime between 09:30 and 12:00 for robing and photography. All Graduates **MUST** be robed by 12:30 at the latest (once you are robed, you may leave the Cathedral, as long as you are back for 12:30). Please leave plenty of time to travel. The ceremony itself will last for approximately two hours and will be followed by a drinks reception (until 16:00 approx.) which all Graduates and guests are welcome to attend. The whole ceremony takes place inside the main building of Peterborough Cathedral.

Will Graduates be sitting with their guests during the ceremony?

No. Graduates will be seated in the main nave seats in alphabetical order. Family and friends will be seated elsewhere in the Cathedral; they will not be allocated specific seats.

Is it easy to park in Peterborough?

There is no public parking available in the Cathedral grounds (Precincts), but there is plenty of parking available just outside, within a 5-10 minute walk.

The full address of the venue is: Peterborough Cathedral, Minster Precincts, Peterborough, PE1 1XS.

Directions and further information in relation to the venue can be found here:

<https://peterborough-cathedral.org.uk/visiting/accessibility/>

Please leave plenty of time to travel, especially if you are unfamiliar with Peterborough. As in any city, traffic may be heavy and finding parking may take time.

Accommodation

If you require overnight accommodation in Peterborough, there are [plenty of hotels](#) within close proximity to the Cathedral. CIPS is unable to book accommodation for you.

Other things to note:

- No designated robing times are provided; doors will open at 09:30, and all Graduates need to be robed and in their seats by 12:30 at the latest.
- Once you are robed, you are free to leave the Cathedral, as long as you return by 12:30 at the latest.
- Catering is not provided at the Graduation ceremony, there are plenty of cafes and restaurants within walking distance of the Cathedral.
- At the end of the ceremony, a drinks reception will be held; this consists of one drink (prosecco or a soft drink) for each graduate and their guests.