

**Flinders University**  
**Graduation Ceremonies**

April 2025

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**Flinders**  
**University**

# The Mace

The silver ceremonial Mace was a gift to Flinders University from The University of Adelaide in April 1969. It represents much of the history and regalia associated with universities and their official ceremonies.



In medieval times, a mace was a heavy, often spiked, club used as a weapon in battle and at jousting matches. In the sixteenth century the mace came to be borne ceremonially as a symbol of protection of the monarch, and later as a general ceremonial staff of office.

Oxford University began using a mace for ceremonial occasions in the late sixteenth century and Cambridge University adopted a mace in 1626.

The Flinders mace was designed by Mr Gerald Benney of London, and is based on a heraldic double F for Flinders.

The head of the mace is textured on its outside surfaces and polished on the spindle parts. The crest of Flinders University is engraved on the head; at the lower end of the shaft, there is a smaller replica of the crest of The University of Adelaide and an inscription 'Given to The Flinders University of South Australia by The University of Adelaide 1969'.

The Flinders University mace was originally carried by the Registrar at graduation ceremonies. In recent years it has been carried by a selected graduate.

# The Crest

The Flinders University Council adopted a coat of arms for the University on 16 December 1966.

The coat of arms consists of a shield bearing a radiant sun at the base surmounted by an open book on a blue background, with an extract from page 176 of Volume 1 of Matthew Flinders' *A Voyage to Terra Australis* printed on the open pages.

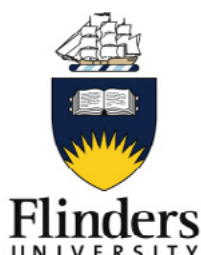
The shield is surmounted by a crest comprising a reproduction of Flinders' ship *Investigator* fully rigged, on a wreath of the University's colours of dark blue, pale blue and white.

The Crest was designed by Kevyn Graham Whisson.

In 2022, the logo was reimaged. Inspired by the ambition of our namesake and the words of our founding Vice-Chancellor Peter Karmel – "*Experiment and experiment bravely*" – Flinders University has always been ready to step away from the security of the familiar and forge new ways forward. As our journey continues, we are evolving our brand and logo to reflect our progress while honouring our past.

Our new aesthetic is designed to capture our strengths as a modern, innovative, inclusive and student-centred organisation.

*Flinders University logo evolution*



# Congratulations to our newest alumni

**On behalf of Flinders University, I extend my warmest congratulations to you, our fearless new graduates.**

As a fellow graduate and now Chancellor of Flinders University, I can say from personal experience that your time at Flinders will serve you well into the future, wherever your lives may lead.

Today marks the closing of one chapter and the beginning of another filled with endless possibilities.

Flinders University was named after the intrepid navigator Matthew Flinders, a man of humble origins who knew his success would rest on the value of his deeds, writing “Since neither birth nor fortune have favoured me, my actions shall speak to the world”.

Like our namesake, Flinders graduates are fearlessly embracing the unknown to inspire people around the globe. Our graduates have gone on to change lives and change the world in many fields – from medicine, science, and engineering, to law, social sciences, and creative arts.

Now, as a graduate, you will go out into the world and continue this legacy, equipped with the skills and knowledge you need to leave your own unique mark.

It is my honour to welcome you to the Flinders alumni network of visionaries, changemakers and achievers that reaches around the globe. I encourage you to stay connected and access a range of opportunities and benefits, including lifelong learning, professional support and being part of a community in which you can share and celebrate your achievements.

As you move into a new chapter of your lives, please keep in touch, and let us know how your lives evolve. We will be watching your success and progress with great interest and pride.

I hope that you will always remember Flinders University and consider it a significant part of your life – not just today, not just over the past few years while studying, but forever.

You can also be assured that Flinders University will continue to grow and evolve to ensure you are always proud to call yourself a Flinders graduate.

My congratulations to you all.

**John Hood**  
Chancellor



**John Hood**  
Chancellor  
Flinders University

# Acknowledgement of Country

Flinders University acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands on which its campuses are located, these are the Traditional Lands of the Arrernte, Dagoman, First Nations of the South East, First Peoples of the River Murray & Mallee region, Jawoyn, Kurna, Larrakia, Ngadjuri, Ngarrindjeri, Ramindjeri, Warumungu, Wardaman and Yolngu people. We honour their Elders past, present and emerging.

## Our vision for Reconciliation

Flinders University's collective vision is to foster an environment that recognises and embraces Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, knowledges and cultures. This vision for reconciliation is grounded in the concepts of togetherness, reciprocity, and respect.

We respect and recognise the long-held philosophies, knowledges, research, strengths and contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in this country.

Flinders has committed to a second Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan to more deeply embed the learnings from our inaugural RAP across our campuses and communities, building on two decades of incremental advances in prioritising Indigenous engagement in higher education. We continue to work across our staff, student and alumni community to increase respectful recognition, knowledge and awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, histories and contributions.

**Explore our Reconciliation Action Plan at:**  
**[Flinders.edu.au/rap](https://flinders.edu.au/rap)**

*Tiles are designed by Dr. Ali Baker and painted by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students during Orientation week at Flinders University.*



# Congratulations – you are now a Flinders University graduate.

**Today we celebrate not just the culmination of your hard work, but the spirit of fearlessness that carried you through this journey.**

Your testamur tells the world that you are equipped with a body of advanced knowledge and skills that sets you apart, earned by your dedication, relentless hard work, and an unwavering commitment to your dreams.

The route to academic success is seldom simple or easy. Embarking on study is a big decision, and choosing what to study and where to study can set the course of one's life.

You've chosen wisely.

A Flinders degree is highly regarded, showing you've got what it takes to succeed at a university that is amongst the best in the world.

At Flinders University, we share our namesake's ambition and commitment to making a difference in the lives of those around us through the value of the work we do. From a quality education that transforms the lives of our students, to the world-class research that impacts communities around the world, Flinders is helping shape the future for us all.

Alongside your personal dedication, it's important to acknowledge the invaluable support of your family, friends, fellow graduates, and our staff who have helped you along the way. I encourage you to maintain those connections you have made at Flinders; many of them will stay with you for life.

As you step out into the world, remember that your journey doesn't end with graduation. Lifelong learning is the key to continued success. Your time at Flinders University has equipped you with the foundation, but it's up to you to build upon it.

Be fearless in pursuing knowledge and adapting to an ever-changing world.

During your time with us, you will have felt the power of our deeply held values of courage, integrity, innovation, and excellence. These values guide everything we do, and they will serve you well into your future.

Congratulations, graduates. Flinders is immensely proud of your accomplishments.

As you turn the page to the next chapter in your life, remember that your Flinders family will always be here to support you on your journey.

**Professor Colin Stirling**  
President and Vice-Chancellor



**Professor Colin J Stirling**  
President and Vice-Chancellor  
Flinders University



# Academic dress

The history of academic dress spans a period of more than 600 years from the earliest days of universities to present. The tradition of wearing academic dress continues in universities around the world.

At Flinders University, the wearing of a hood by the graduate to indicate their College is the principal feature. The hood of Flinders' academic dress is a dark blue. The colours of the hood's lining and piping are prescribed by the University and distinguish the different award and College.

Graduates who identify as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Australian are entitled to wear a stole of either Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander colours, worn over the gown and under the hood.

## List of hood piping colours

	Blue for <b>College of Business, Government and Law</b>
	Orange for <b>College of Education, Psychology and Social Work</b>
	Yellow for <b>College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences</b>
	Green for <b>College of Medicine and Public Health</b>
	Red for <b>College of Nursing and Health Sciences</b>
	Purple for <b>College of Science and Engineering</b>

## Academic dress colours

Academic dress is made up of three parts; the **gown**, the **hood** and the **cap**. The cap is a black mortarboard with black tassel, unless graduating with a doctorate, where a black velvet bonnet with a black cord is worn.



### Higher Doctorate

Gown: Red with coloured trim  
Hood: Red lined with the colour of the discipline



### Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

Gown: Navy with red trim  
Hood: Navy with red lining (no piping)



### Doctorate (other than PhD and Doctor of Medicine)

Gown: Red with coloured trim  
Hood: Navy with red lining and coloured piping



### Doctor of Medicine, Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery, Bachelor of Clinical Sciences and Doctor of Medicine

Gown: Black with glove sleeves  
Hood: Navy with light green lining (no piping)



### Masters

Gown: Black with glove sleeves  
Hood: Navy with pale blue lining and coloured piping



### Graduate Certificates and Graduate Diplomas

Gown: Black with open sleeves  
Hood: Navy with pale blue lining (no piping)



### Bachelor

Gown: Black with open sleeves  
Hood: Navy with white lining and coloured piping



### Undergraduate, Associate Degrees and Associate Diplomas

Gown: Black with open sleeves  
Hood: Navy with white lining (no piping)

# Flinders University Alumni Awards

The annual Flinders University Alumni Awards acknowledge the significant contributions made by our graduates in their field, to the University or to the community locally, nationally and internationally. The awards include the Convocation Medal, Distinguished Alumni Awards and the Early Career Alumni Awards.

Congratulations to our 2024 recipients!

## Convocation Medal

### Dr Brendan Nelson AO

Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery 1983,  
Doctor of the University honoris causa (Honorary) 2011

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## Distinguished Alumni Award

### Catherine Fitzgerald

Bachelor of Arts 1982, Bachelor of Arts with Honours 1989

### Professor Tom Gordon

Doctor of Philosophy (Medicine) 1987, Doctor of Medicine 1996

### Lauren Hillman

Bachelor of Arts 2000, Bachelor of Arts with Honours 2002

### Simon Schrapel AM

Master of Policy and Administration 2005

### Greg Taylor

Bachelor of Commerce 2005

### Professor Anthony Williams

Doctor of Philosophy (Physical Sciences) 1985

## Early Career Alumni Award

Launched in 2020, the Early Career Alumni Award recognises the outstanding achievements and contributions of graduates in their early career (up to five years after graduating from an undergraduate or postgraduate degree).

This year we celebrate the achievements of Early Career Alumni Awardees:

### Sara Carrison

Bachelor of Medical Science (Vision Science), Master of Optometry 2019

### Thao Thu Hoang

Master of Social Work 2021

### Dr Xuan Luo

Diploma in Communication and Information Technology 2008, Bachelor of Human Nutrition 2012, Master of Biotechnology Studies 2014, Doctor of Philosophy 2019

### Dr Emad Roshandel

Doctor of Philosophy 2023

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**Who are the Flinders alumni that inspire you?  
Consider nominating them for a Flinders  
University Alumni Award in 2025. Nominations  
are now open!**

**Learn more:**

**[Flinders.edu.au/alumni-awards](https://flinders.edu.au/alumni-awards)**



Catherine Fitzgerald



Dr Brendan Nelson AO



Greg Taylor

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# Congratulations!

Now that you have finished your degree at Flinders University, you have become a lifelong member of our Alumni Network. You join more than 135,000 Flinders alumni across 130 countries who are finding their place, leaving their mark and making a difference around the world!

Leverage your degree long after graduation by tapping into this powerful network and making connections wherever your degree takes you.

**Scan here to follow  
the reading of  
the graduates names**



## We're here for you

**Keep your career on the move with year-round opportunities to develop your professional capacity, such as:**

- Access to Flinders CareerHub for job listings and career support for two years
- Professional development opportunities
- Networking at a range of course, College and University events
- Mentoring a current student

- Postgraduate study or short courses
- Public lectures – in person, live streamed or recorded

These opportunities are promoted in our monthly alumni e-newsletter – keep an eye out for it in your inbox. And don't forget to update us if you move or change email address, that way we can let you know about events and opportunities in your location.



*College of Business, Government and Law Alumni & Industry Networking Event*



*10 Years of Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy Reunion*

## Celebrating Alumni Achievements

Flinders is honoured to count among its alumni:

**1** Fields  
Medallist

**6** Rhodes  
Scholars

**30** Fulbright  
Scholars

**350+** Australian Honours  
recipients



# Get involved, give back

Access important career developing and defining opportunities by getting involved and giving back.

## Share your time

Opportunities to hear from graduates like you are invaluable for current students. As your career develops, we welcome you to share your skills, knowledge and experience with students through speaking and mentorship opportunities.

## Offer a placement

Remember your internship or work placement? When you're in the position to help a current student gain this valuable workplace experience, please reach out to us and we will help find the right student for your organisation.

## Share your story

We all have unique life stories and we would love to hear about yours as you follow your career path. Over the next year, or in the next decade, inspire the next generation of students by sharing what your next steps were beyond Flinders University and how you achieved your career goals.

## Be recognised for your achievements

Our annual Alumni Awards recognise the achievements of our graduates in their field and to the community. Our three categories span different stages of your career, from our Early Career Alumni Award and Distinguished Alumni Awards, to the prestigious Convocation Medal.

## Connect with your fellow-graduates

Alumni networks and reunions are a great opportunity for catching up and maintaining connections with graduates from your degree, industry or region. Reunions are often held during milestone years and are usually instigated by an individual or group of graduates, with support from the Alumni Relations team.

## Support life-changing research

You can play a powerful role in changing lives by supporting research at Flinders University. Researchers across the University are investigating eating disorders, cancer treatments, environmental impacts, healthy ageing, green energy and so much more. Learn how your support can have an impact across the community:

**[Flinders.edu.au/donate](https://flinders.edu.au/donate)**



**Scholarship recipient  
Haidarr Jones  
BMedia (Creative Arts) '16**

## Support students in financial need

From failing junior high school and being homeless while studying his media degree, Haidarr Jones now enjoys a successful career in media production at the ABC thanks to the scholarship support he received at Flinders University. If you would like to support students who are facing financial hardship to reach their potential, please make a donation to the Matthew Flinders Scholarship:

**[Flinders.edu.au/donate](https://flinders.edu.au/donate)**

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## We look forward to staying connected

We are so excited for your next move after you leave Flinders University, but we also want to continue to engage with you, inspire you and help you reach your career goals into the future.

Staying connected is an important way for us to let you know about Flinders University Alumni Network activities, professional development opportunities, reunions and events in your location (whether that is Sydney, Shanghai or Stepney).

You can stay connected by updating your contact details whenever you move or change jobs. Fill in the online form or contact the Alumni Relations Team.

**[alumni@flinders.edu.au](mailto:alumni@flinders.edu.au)  
+61 8 8201 7969**

**Update your contact details:  
[Flinders.edu.au/update](https://flinders.edu.au/update)**

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# Excellence in research

## Research highlights

**90%** of our research is rated world-standard or above\*

Research is a fundamental cornerstone of our mission as a University. Through research and research-led teaching, we build and develop the knowledge and capabilities that improve lives and enhance society.

### Major research areas include

- Autonomous vehicles
- Clean technology
- Energetic materials
- Health and care
- Medicine and public health
- Labour and industry transformation studies
- Marine and maritime research
- Medical devices
- Nanotech and analytical chemistry
- Psychology and neuroscience
- Water and the environment

Research and creative endeavour have been at the core of Flinders University's identity since its inception, with our many Research Institutes and Centres, we have seen external research income jump 70% in four years and we are expecting for this trajectory to continue.

\*Flinders rating 89.7%, rounded up to 90%. Excellence in Research for Australia, 2018

## Higher Degree Research that matters

Whether you want to explore a topic that interests you in-depth, create new knowledge or become an expert in your field, a Higher Degree by Research at Flinders will help you to make a difference.

At Flinders you'll be supported and mentored by specialist supervisors as you undertake your nominated research project. With the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) or Masters by Research, you can choose the one that best suits your needs, and eligibility.

**Learn more:** [Flinders.edu.au/HDR](https://flinders.edu.au/HDR)

## New Health and Medical Research Building Opening 2024

Flinders University is investing in a world-class Health and Medical Research Building for Southern Adelaide. As a leading biomedical research facility, it will enable collaboration between researchers, healthcare and industry partners, translating world-class research into improved community healthcare outcomes.

**Learn more:** [Flinders.edu.au/hmrh](https://flinders.edu.au/hmrh)

## Flinders' city campus

### Where potential meets possibility

Surrounded by key arts, business, sports and government institutions, Flinders at Festival Plaza on North Terrace sits at the epicentre of Adelaide's most vibrant and connected cultural hub. Spanning eight levels, with multiple state-of-the-art teaching spaces, Flinders' city campus is designed for flexible, adaptable learning, catering to an extensive range of study programs. No matter where you're from, Flinders at Festival Plaza invites students, thinkers, creators and collaborators to come, be part of our culture, and realise the possibility of your potential.

**Learn more:** [Flinders.edu.au/festival-plaza](https://flinders.edu.au/festival-plaza)












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