

The Academical Dress of the University of Stirling 1967–2006

by Colin A. M. Fleming

Abstract

The University of Stirling, one of four universities established in Scotland in the 1960s, was the only new foundation; the other three were raised to university status from pre-existing institutions. Unlike the other three—Dundee, Heriot-Watt and Strathclyde—Stirling had no established programmes of study around which to develop a system of academical dress. This helps to explain why Stirling was unique among the Scottish 1960s foundations in not adopting a faculty colour scheme. Rather, the system of academical dress was allowed to evolve with the University itself. This has led to a few anomalies but no more than those at other, more venerable, institutions.

When designing its own academical dress, the University drew on a number of themes and traditions in Scottish universities' academical dress: the use of Edinburgh shaped hoods for most graduates; the design of the gown for the honorary degree of Doctor of the University is based on a Glasgow gown; and the use of a masters'-style gown for all graduates, other than for Doctors of the University. Unlike all the other Scottish universities established in the 1960s as well as the ancient foundations, Stirling does not require the use of head gear (except by the Chancellor and Principal and Vice-Chancellor). In one area it has broken with tradition: it uses fur on its masters' hoods, but this departure is not as significant as it might seem at first.¹

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Abbreviations

DUniv	Doctor of the University
MA, BA	Master/ Bachelor of Arts
DLitt, MLitt	Doctor/ Master of Letters
DSc, MSc, BSc	Doctor/ Master/ Bachelor of Science
PhD, MPhil	Doctor/ Master of Philosophy
DASR	Doctor of Applied Social Research
DBA, MBA	Doctor/ Master of Business Administration
DM, DN; MM, MN; BM, BN	Doctor/ Master/ Bachelor of Midwifery/ Nursing
EdD, MEd, BEd	Doctor/ Master/ Bachelor of Education
LLM, LLB	Master/ Bachelor of Laws
MRes	Master of Research
BAcc	Bachelor of Accounting
BEducStud	Bachelor of Education Studies
BSW	Bachelor of Social Work
DipHE	Diploma of Higher Education

The University of Stirling: an introduction

The University of Stirling was one of the universities established in the UK following the 1963 Robbins Report on the future of Higher Education² in the United Kingdom and was the only entirely new university foundation in Scotland in the twentieth century. The University opened in September 1967 and received its Royal Charter in December of that year, which proclaimed ‘There shall be and there is hereby constituted and founded in Our said County of Stirling and Royal Burgh of Stirling a University with the name and style of “The University of Stirling”’.³

The antecedents of Stirling’s academical dress

Stirling did not develop its academical dress in a vacuum and there is evidence that some aspects of the scheme adopted initially do make reference to the historical use of academical dress in Scotland. No more so is this evident than in two areas: the use of fur on masters’ hoods and the gown worn by Doctors of the University.

THE DUNIV GOWN

The gown prescribed for Doctors of the University, dove grey with square loose (flap) collar and long sleeves, facings and two-inch edging on collar of powder blue, is of interest because it is rooted in the historical use of academical dress in Scotland.

In 1610, James VI directed that doctors of laws of all Scottish universities should wear black gowns, faced in front and on the collar with black velvet.⁴ By the eighteenth century, Doctors of Medicine at Glasgow University wore a black gown with a large flap collar and wide bell sleeves.⁵ It is quite conceivable that the gown for the Stirling DUniv, as the new University’s premier academic distinction, was based on these historical Scottish gowns. An alternative view is that the new University, like Strathclyde, adapted the Glasgow doctors’ undress gown (a black silk gown with bell-shaped sleeves with a flap collar over the yoke⁶) in distinctive colours. Either way, the DUniv gown demonstrates that those who designed the initial scheme of academical dress at Stirling were aware of the traditions of academical dress in Scotland and drew on historical sources.

² Command Paper CMND 2154 (1963).

³ Stirling University (SU): Royal Charter, 14 December 1967.

⁴ Hargreaves-Mawdsley, p. 138.

⁵ Hargreaves-Mawdsley, p. 141. There is no mention of the antecedents of this gown. Franklyn (1970) is also unhelpful; indeed, his treatment of Scottish universities can only be described as cursory.

⁶ Shaw (1995), p. 113; Smith, p. 793.

THE QUESTION OF MASTERS' FUR

The decision to add fur to the hoods of masters sparked a great deal of comment among academical dress enthusiasts. In Haycraft (1972), the notoriously curmudgeonly Charles Franklyn added this comment to his entry on Stirling's academical dress: 'This University has broken the tradition, established over 500 years, that only bachelors have fur on their hoods.'⁷ More recently, George Shaw observed with equal vigour that 'The University of Stirling is a law unto itself going against all rules and regulations for academical dress, in that they add fur to the masters' hoods!'⁸ Was the University a 'law unto itself'? Was this an attempt on behalf of the new university to appear to be different, or was it looking back more than 500 years to a time when the use of fur on hoods was more widespread?

Franklyn notes:

In the earliest days of the use of academical hoods at Oxford, the bachelors [...] were obliged to have their hoods fully lined with fur. Masters and noblemen might use miniver, or silk in summer. Probably the use of silk as a lining for Masters' and Doctors' hoods came in later, after 1500, and was first introduced for summer use obviously being cooler and lighter. Eventually, the Masters and Doctors seem to have discarded fur linings for ever, and adhered to silk lined hoods for all seasons.⁹

Obviously, there was a time when fur (miniver) was common for masters' hoods, at least at Oxford, but it had fallen into disuse for all except the University Proctors, who continue to use an ermine-lined MA hood.

Of more direct relevance, Hargreaves-Mawdsley notes:

From the fact that in 1490 the bursar [of the University of Glasgow] was appointed to purchase six hoods of blue (*blodius*) cloth 'sufficiently furred' for the common use of the Faculty of Arts both regents and students, it would seem that this was the established and recognised symbol of the mastership, and that students wore such a hood at the ceremony at which they took the masters' degree, for from the silence about the Bachelor of Arts degree it seems that it had already died out.¹⁰

Franklyn makes no mention of this evidence of masters' fur in Scotland in his 1970 book; even though its publication followed Hargreaves-Mawdsley's learned study by several years. Thus, Stirling's use of fur on its masters' hoods provides a second direct link to the historical academical dress used at Glasgow.

⁷ Haycraft (1972), p. 26.

⁸ Shaw (1995), p. 200.

⁹ Franklyn (1970), p. 147.

¹⁰ Hargreaves-Mawdsley, p. 140.

In pre-Reformation Scotland, the furred hood was the distinctive mark of a bachelor at St Andrews,¹¹ Glasgow¹² (although, as noted above, not exclusively) and Aberdeen.¹³ It is not known whether Edinburgh, established in 1582 and a civic (as opposed to clerical) institution, ever had distinctive hoods.¹⁴ When hoods were reintroduced in the 1870s, the practice of restricting fur to bachelors was well-established in England and was accepted in Scotland. However, St Andrews permits the use of the noble fur ermine as an alternative to silk lining for its higher doctors.¹⁵

There is also a tantalizing reference to an Oxford Doctor of Medicine's convocation dress, circa 1651, having 'a very large white fur hood with only a thin line of pink silk showing, a scarlet "habit", closed in front except for a little furred slit on the chest ...'¹⁶ Unfortunately, Hargreaves-Mawdsley does not investigate this anomaly further, and it might prove an interesting line of study.

Was the University of Stirling acknowledging the pre-Reformation use at Glasgow noted by Hargreaves-Mawdsley, or was it pointedly breaking with tradition—something not so unusual in the late 1960s? The author would like to think that history played its part in the decision, but the more likely answer is the desire to be different! However, to its credit, Stirling has weathered these criticisms and continues to border its masters' hoods with fur.

Academical dress at the other 1960s Scottish universities

The universities established during the 1960s at Dundee, Edinburgh (Heriot-Watt) and Glasgow (Strathclyde) each developed their own scheme of academical dress and it is useful to consider these schemes, if only to contrast with that adopted at Stirling. Each was raised to university status from pre-existing colleges, some of comparative venerability. The University of Dundee is the successor of a number of academic institutions related to the University of St Andrews, dating back to 1881. Heriot-Watt University can trace its origins to 1827, when the 'School of Arts of Edinburgh for the Education of Mechanics in Such Branches of Physical Science as are of Practical Application in their Several Trades' was established. The University of Strathclyde is the grandparent of them all and can trace its origins to the philanthropy of John Anderson, who died in 1796 leaving a bequest for 'a place of useful learning', a university open to everyone, regardless of gender or class.

¹¹ Hargreaves-Mawdsley, p. 138.

¹² Hargreaves-Mawdsley, p. 140.

¹³ Hargreaves-Mawdsley, p. 142.

¹⁴ Hargreaves-Mawdsley, p. 145.

¹⁵ Smith, p. 785, 792 (illus: plate 212); *University of St Andrews Academic Costume*, available at www.st-andrews.ac.uk/registry/graduation/gradress.htm [visited 2005/09/19]

¹⁶ Hargreaves-Mawdsley, p. 76.

The academical dress of these universities exhibits similarities with each other. They each adopted faculty colours and had (at least initially) relatively simple schemes of academical dress. However, faculty colours were used in the 'English style' rather than that of France, as at St Andrews (i.e., the lining (not the body) of the hood denotes the faculty¹⁷). The use of faculty colours probably reflects the relatively mature status of the institutions. All use headgear and two of the three adopted a masters'-style gown for all graduates. Strathclyde was the only one of the three to specify distinctive gowns for undergraduates, bachelors and masters

However, there were some innovations. Dundee adopted a modified version of the Aberdeen shape [a1]¹⁸, making the cape oblong with rounded corners—giving the hood the appearance of being a hybrid of the Aberdeen shape (for the cowl) and London full shape [f3] (for the cape) but without a liripipe. This is now classified as the Dundee shape [a6]. Strathclyde provides the one serious anomaly (the 'Strathclyde heresy'): there is no differentiation between the hoods of bachelors and doctors. Thus, if a graduate is wearing their hood over clerical attire or a Geneva gown, it is impossible to determine whether one has toiled long and hard to earn a doctorate, or merely scraped a pass as a bachelor!

At a high level, there are similarities and differences between these three and Stirling. In common with Dundee and Heriot-Watt, Stirling adopted the black masters'-style gown for the majority of its graduates. However, it opted to use a simple shape for its hoods (other than honorary degrees and, later, higher doctorates) and did not use headgear at all. Given its small size and the limited number of degrees it offered in 1967, it did not need and did not adopt a faculty colour system, something which led to not a few anomalies.

¹⁷ St Andrews breaks its own rules by permitting all masters to line their hoods with the faculty colour (other than Masters *in* Chemistry, Physics and Science, which are black with a three-inch border of the faculty colour; Masters *of* Science line their hoods with the faculty colour).

¹⁸ Nicholas Groves suggests that the Dundee shape is probably the original Aberdeen shape, Aberdeen having developed its distinctive pear-shape cape (*correspondence* March 2006).

Academical dress at the University of Stirling

The scheme of academical dress at Stirling developed slowly. In Haycraft (1972), information is available only for the degrees of BA, MLitt, MSc, PhD and DUniv. Like the University itself, the academical dress at Stirling evolved, with new gowns and hoods approved as the degrees offered increased.

Gowns

Initially, the rules for academical dress stated that ‘neither staff nor students shall be required to wear gowns except at formal occasions such as graduation.’¹⁹ Thus, the regulations for the use of academical dress make no reference to ‘undress’ robes for Masters of Arts and doctors. If ever there was a need for undress robes for these graduates, a plain black masters’-style gown would be appropriate. As explained below, this gown is the ‘default’ gown for members of the University, and thus its use as an undress robe would be logical.

UNDERGRADUATES AND DIPLOMATISTS

Unlike the ancient Scottish universities and all other 1960s Scottish universities other than Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, undergraduate students at Stirling were not assigned academical dress and this has not been changed subsequently.

Any non-graduates (students or staff) participating in degree ceremonies, including non-graduates receiving a University Diploma, wear a black masters’-style gown with glove sleeves. The boot of the sleeve is cut in a manner similar to that of the University of Aberdeen [m2].

BACHELORS AND MASTERS

All graduates of the University receiving bachelors’ and masters’ degrees (other than Masters of Arts) wear the black masters’-style gown prescribed for non-graduates.

Masters of Arts, one of the University’s honorary degrees, wear a black masters’-style gown with 2.5-inch facings of Medici crimson.

In using an MA gown for its lower degrees, the University acknowledged the custom of the ancient Scottish universities, at which a student graduated after four years with an honours master’s degree, without ever receiving a bachelor’s degree formally.²⁰ In addition, the practice matches that at three of the ancient Scottish foundations: the Universities of Aberdeen, Edinburgh and St Andrews.

¹⁹ See, for example, SU Calendar (1975–76), p. 138.

²⁰ Franklyn (1970), p. 210.

PROFESSIONAL DOCTORS AND DOCTORS OF PHILOSOPHY

The tradition of Cambridge University is followed, in that lower doctors wear a faced gown rather than a robe.²¹ In full dress, Doctors of Philosophy and those holding professional doctorates (DBA, EdD, DM, DN and (presumably) DASR) wear a black masters'-style gown with dove grey facings.

HIGHER DOCTORS (OTHER THAN DOCTORS OF THE UNIVERSITY)

When Stirling introduced higher doctorates, they chose robes that were influenced by the pre-existing PhD and DUniv robes. Higher Doctors were to have gowns of the same *colour* as a DUniv, but in the same *shape* as a PhD. Those admitted to the degrees of Doctor of Letters and Doctor of Science wear a dove grey masters'-style gown with facings matching those of the hood lining (i.e., DLitt: violet; DSc: crocus). This is an elegant compromise and keeps the gown for all earned doctorates distinct from those for the honorary DUniv.

DOCTORS OF THE UNIVERSITY

Doctors of the University wear a gown similar to the undress gown worn by higher doctors of the University of Glasgow but in dove grey. The gown has a loose (flap) collar and bell sleeves,²² with facings and a two-inch edging on the collar of powder blue.

Hoods

NON-GRADUATES—DIPLOMA IN HIGHER EDUCATION

In the United Kingdom, the tradition of granting a distinctive hood to students graduating with a diploma, while comparatively recent, has its roots in the practices of the ancient English universities. One possibility is that noted in Franklyn (1970), in which, quoting from *Costume and Fashion*,²³ he notes the tradition at Oxford, where the Student [or Scholar] in Civil Law²⁴ hood 'survived until quite recently, being a hood of plain blue of the legists, without any fur, being the equivalent to the plain black hoods of the final year Arts students.' It must be noted that the SCL was a *status* and not an academic award of any kind: it demonstrated that the wearer was reading for a Bachelor in Civil Law but was excused the BA.

²¹ Shaw (1995), p. 40.

²² Shaw (1995) states, incorrectly, that the gown has glove sleeves (p. 201). This gown is not classified in the Groves scheme, but would be similar to an Oxford doctors robe [d2], with a flap collar and narrow bell sleeves.

²³ Herbert Norris, *Costume and Fashion* (London: J. M. Dent & Sons), quoted by Franklyn (1970), p. 146.

²⁴ Hargreaves-Mawdsley states that 'Students of Civil Law were "persons studying the law being above four years standing in the University and being entered in the law-book"' (p. 91).

At Stirling, the appointment of hoods for students graduating with a diploma is a recent development. Originally, no distinctive dress was prescribed: the student was expected to wear the academical dress to which they were entitled, or, if not a graduate, a plain black masters'-style gown. However, in common with many other universities, Stirling now has hoods for those receiving the distinction of a University Diploma. The hood is Edinburgh [s4] shape, black, unlined and faced with three inches of dove grey silk (for graduate diplomas and certificates other than Higher Education)²⁵ and azure blue silk (for Diplomas in Higher Education). There is a clear link between the DipHE and the BM/BN hood and with degrees in education, which feature azure blue silk. Similarly, the use of dove grey for all other graduate-level diplomas and certificates displays a link with the BA hood, which is lined with dove grey as described in the next section.

GRADUATES

All hoods are of the Edinburgh shape, other than those for higher doctorates and the honorary degrees of Master of Arts and Doctor of the University. By doing this, the University paid homage to two of its elder sisters: Edinburgh, whose simple shape hood is used for the vast majority of degrees; and St Andrews and Glasgow, which use the full shape [f12 and f9, respectively] for all their hoods. By adopting the full shape for its higher doctors and honorary degrees, Stirling was spared the quixotic Edinburgh doctors'-shape hood!

As Stirling does not use a faculty colour scheme, it is the title of the degree that determines the lining of the hood, rather than the field of study. Thus, at bachelor level, graduates in psychology usually receive a BA while those studying biology a BSc. Both subjects are within the (administrative) Faculty of Human Sciences.

The original hoods for graduates (i.e., BA, MLitt, MSc and PhD) used variations of dove grey and malachite green, which are the University's colours. These colours might be interpretations of the colours in the arms of the University²⁶, which feature green and silver. Dove grey is a sort of silver-grey and could be seen as close to the *argent* of the arms, with malachite as a shade of *vert*, perhaps suggesting the Ochil Hills that dominate the University campus.

²⁵ The University *Rules for Use of Academic Dress* describe this hood as that for 'postgraduate' diplomas and certificates. The University Website states that the dress for 'Undergraduate Certificates' is a black masters'-style gown without hood.

²⁶ Per fess enarched Vert and barry-wavy Azure and Argent a bow-arched bridge of seven arches in fess Argent ensigned with a tower of the last, masoned sable, window Gules, between three open books two and one proper, fore-edges and binding Or (Court of Lord Lyon, June 1967).

Bachelors

Bachelors wear an Edinburgh shape hood, black body and fully lined (and edged/faced) with silk as follows:

Arts	Dove grey
Accountancy	Calamine blue
Education	Azure blue
Education Studies	Sapphire blue
Law	Dove grey faced with three inches of maroon
Midwifery and Nursing	Dove grey faced with three inches of azure blue
Science	Dove grey edged with narrow malachite green ribbon
Social Work	Dove grey faced with three inches of crocus

Masters (other than Master of Arts)

Stirling offers taught masters' degrees as well as by research and, more recently, 'professional' degrees, which combine coursework and research. Masters wear an Edinburgh shape hood, black body, fully lined with silk and bordered with white fur as follows:

Business Administration	Maroon
Education	Azure blue
Law	Dove grey, faced with three inches of maroon
Letters	Malachite green, faced with three inches of stone white
Midwifery and Nursing	Dove grey, faced with three inches of azure blue
Philosophy	Stone white, faced with three inches of malachite green
Research	Malachite green, faced with three inches of dove grey
Science	Malachite green

It will be noticed that the hoods for Masters of Education and Midwifery/Nursing are logical when compared to those of the corresponding bachelors' degrees. Business Administration has no corresponding lower degree. The anomalies raised by the hoods for the MLitt, MPhil and MSc are discussed below.

Master of Arts

The degree of Master of Arts is one of the University's two honorary degrees. It is awarded to 'persons who have rendered long and meritorious service to the University, or who have made an outstanding contribution to the community.'²⁷ As such, Stirling is unique among Scottish universities in that one may not become MA other than *honoris causa*! A Master of Arts wears a Cambridge full shape [f1] hood, black body fully lined with Medici crimson.

Professional doctorates

A comparatively recent development is the offering of 'professional' doctorates (the EdD was established in 1998). These degrees involve a mixture of teaching, practice and the submission of a thesis, although usually shorter than for degrees by research alone. Professional doctors wear a hood of Edinburgh shape, dove grey fully lined with silk as follows:

Business Administration	Maroon
Education	Azure blue
Midwifery and Nursing	Dove grey faced with three inches azure blue
Applied Social Research	<i>To be determined</i>

Doctors of Philosophy

The hood for Doctors of Philosophy is Edinburgh shape, dove grey fully lined with malachite green. This hood was part of the original scheme of academical dress and combines the University's colours in a pleasing hood.

Higher doctors

The University authorized the awarding of higher doctorates in June 1986.²⁸ These degrees are never awarded *honoris causa*. The *Regulations for the degrees of Doctor of Letters and Doctor of Science* state that the

degree of Doctor of Letters (DLitt) or the degree of Doctor of Science (DSc) may be granted to a candidate who presents for examination a collection of published work, or a specially composed thesis based on such published work, which constitutes an original and substantial contribution of high distinction to scholarship and which establishes the candidate as an international authority in the particular field of study.²⁹

²⁷ SU: Ordinance §16.2.

²⁸ The University Court approved the necessary Ordinance on 9 June 1986.

²⁹ SU Calendar (2005-06) VII: 47.

The academical dress for the higher doctorates blends elements of both the DUniv (the shape of the hood) and those of other doctorates (the colour of the body of the hood). The hood is full [f1] shape, dove grey lined with either violet (DLitt) or crocus (purple) (DSc). These hoods are discussed further below.

Doctors of the University

This degree is awarded to ‘persons who have rendered outstanding services to the University or to persons of great distinction in the fields of learning, the arts or public affairs.’³⁰ Doctors of the University wear a full shape [f1] hood, malachite green body lined with powder blue.

Head gear

The original scheme stated that the academical dress of the University ‘does not include head gear.’ Undergraduates and Graduates still do not wear head gear, although certain officers of the University—notably the Chancellor and Principal and Vice-Chancellor—may now wear traditional headdress.

Officers’ dress

As with other areas of Stirling’s academical dress, the ceremonial dress of officers has evolved over time. Initially, only the Chancellor had a special robe, and the Principal, when acting as Vice-Chancellor,³¹ was distinguished by a ‘special stole’—dove grey silk with the University’s arms embroidered on the falls—which was worn over his or her own academical dress. More recently, the Principal and Vice-Chancellor has acquired a distinctive robe.

The Chancellor wears a traditional chancellors’-style robe with flap collar in black silk damask but without a train. The gown has panel sleeves with an inverted-T armhole. The facings, collar and skirt of the gown are decorated with gold lace. The shoulder and the armholes are edged with narrow gold lace. In addition the armholes are decorated with three woven gold ‘frogs’. The Chancellor may wear a black velvet mortar board with a gold button and bullion tassel. The skull cap is edged with gold lace. The Principal and Vice-Chancellor wears a robe similar to that worn by the Chancellor, but with less decoration around the armholes. The Principal and Vice-Chancellor may wear a cap similar to the Chancellor’s.

All other Officers are required to wear the ‘gowns and hoods appropriate to the academic awards they hold’.³²

³⁰ SU: Ordinance §16.1.

³¹ SU: Rules for Use of Academic Dress (until 1983).

³² SU: Rules for Use of Academic Dress §1.

Observations, anomalies and criticisms

The University of Stirling is almost forty years old and the range of its courses has expanded as the University has grown. The development of its academical dress reflects this expansion. This section looks at some aspects of the University's academical dress in greater depth.

Hoods for higher doctors

The introduction of higher doctorates created anomalies in the system of academical dress at Stirling. Were the hoods assigned to the degrees logical? Not especially, but then there was no formal faculty colour scheme to assist in the design. However, it is unfortunate that there is no connexion between the hoods for doctors and those for BA/MLitt and BSc/MSc to make the point that, at Stirling, the DLitt and DSc are always earned degrees.

The hood for the DLitt did not follow logically from any existing hood. A possible design would have been to follow the MLitt, which would have produced a full shape hood, dove grey lined with malachite green and bordered with stone white silk. This design would not have infringed any other Stirling hood. This design would also have resulted in a grey gown faced with malachite green, again not contrary to any other Stirling gown. Another option would have been to line the hood with dove grey silk (i.e., the lining of the BA)—but this would have made a dull hood for such a senior degree!

A different problem existed with the DSc. Following the pattern of the MSc hood would have produced a full shape hood, dove grey lined with malachite green. However, this is virtually identical to the PhD hood (same colour scheme, but the PhD uses the Edinburgh shape). This design would also have resulted in a grey gown faced with malachite green, the same as the DLitt (but then the PhD and all professional doctorates share the same gown).

In the absence of a faculty colour system, these arguments do not really matter: the dress for the higher doctors is distinctive and dignified.

Suggestions for rationalization

As we have noted elsewhere in this study, Stirling's system of academical dress is not based on a system of faculty colours as was the case at Dundee, Heriot-Watt and Strathclyde. Although the University introduced faculties for administrative purposes in the early 1990s, these relate more to schools of study and cannot be said to be related to the system of academical dress. For example, the Faculty of Human Sciences awards degrees in applied social science (BSW), nursing and midwifery (BM, BN) and psychology (BA). The Faculty of Management awards degrees in accountancy (BA and BAcc), computer science (BA), economics (BA), law (LLB and LLM) marketing (BA) and management (MBA; DBA), among

others. Thus, a rationalization of academical dress based on faculties would probably not be possible or appropriate.

While it is apparent that an attempt has been made to use a more logical system of academical dress with respect to the degree programmes introduced in the late 1980s and subsequently, this welcome development cannot be called a faculty scheme as that term is more widely used. Rather, it is probably due in part to a sole robemaker being responsible for the University from 1985. Prior to that academical dress could be obtained from a number of robemakers in Edinburgh and Glasgow, including R. W. Forsyth and James How, both now defunct. As such, the hoods for degrees established in the first twenty years of the University's existence were developed on an *ad hoc* basis, with no apparent view to possible future developments.

The rigour of experience brought by Ede & Ravenscroft can be seen in some areas, where a logical system of academical dress has developed, even if it is not a formal faculty colour system. In particular, the following subjects use the same colours throughout:

Business Administration	Maroon
Education	Azure blue
Law	Dove grey faced with three inches maroon
Midwifery and Nursing	Dove grey, faced with three inches azure blue

However, there are still areas of confusion. For example, the design of the bachelors' hoods is inconsistent: some are fully lined with one colour (BA, BAcc, BEd and BEducStud), while others are lined with dove grey and faced with another colour (BSc, BM, BN, BSW and LLB). There seems to be no logical reason why this should be so. It would be more in keeping with the original design scheme, in which the base colour for bachelors' degrees was dove grey and that for masters' malachite green, to have all bachelors' hoods lined with dove grey silk and differenced with a facing where necessary³³. The BSc hood is an anomaly: it is the only Stirling hood that is edged, while all other hoods have facings three inches deep inside the cowl. Ede & Ravenscroft offered to correct this, but the University was content to keep to the original design.³⁴ Finally, as noted above, the use of crocus (purple) as a facing for degrees in social work is confusing, given that the colour was first assigned to Doctors of Science.

The situation with masters' hoods is better, but here one may criticize the early masters' hoods (MLitt, MPhil and MSc) for a lack of logic. Ideally, the MPhil hood would be black lined malachite green bordered with fur, thus giving a clear

³³ This would be to adopt a variant of the academical dress of Reading University, where each grade of degree (Bachelor; Master; Doctor) has a distinctive hood. The suggestion here is that each grade would have a distinctive base colour, with different facings as necessary.

³⁴ Telephone interview with John Cormack of Ede & Ravenscroft, June 2004.

connexion with the PhD hood: dove grey lined malachite green. However, this design was assigned to the MSc (instituted some fifteen years before the MPhil), which should (arguably) have been malachite green faced with dove grey and bordered with fur (i.e., the reverse of the BSc). The hoods for the MLitt and MPhil are mirrors of each other: the MLitt is black lined malachite green faced with stone white silk and bordered with fur; the MPhil is black lined stone white silk faced with malachite green silk and bordered with fur. Perhaps a more logical design would have been as follows:

MLitt	Black, lined malachite green faced with stone white bordered with fur [as now]
MPhil	Black, lined malachite green bordered with fur
MSc	Black, lined malachite green faced with dove grey bordered with fur

Had this scheme been adopted, the DSc hood could have been full shape, dove grey lined malachite green faced with dove grey, a logical progression. This scheme would have the added benefit of releasing crocus exclusively for degrees in social work. However, my proposed design for the MSc was, in 2005, assigned to the new MRes. Alternatively, the designs for the MLitt and MSc could be reversed, so that Letters would have the dove grey facing (i.e., the lining of the BA hood) and the MSc would be the ‘orphan’.

The more recent masters’ hoods (MBA, MEd, LLM, MM, and MN) are logical and relate clearly to the related bachelors’ and doctors’ hoods (with the exception of Business Administration, for which there is no corresponding bachelors’ degree). The hood for the MRes, approved in 2005, adds to the orphans in the masters’ hoods. As demonstrated above, the design allocated to the degree was better suited to the MSc. However, it is in keeping with the general colour scheme of the University and the design of masters’ hoods.

Conclusion

The development of academical dress in the University of Stirling demonstrates some of the possibilities as well as the pitfalls of avoiding a faculty colour system. Stirling was the only 1960s Scottish university not to use such a system, and some of the anomalies noted in this study can be traced to this decision. The use of fur on masters’ hoods, while offensive to some, is an interesting twist on convention and has been shown to relate to a most ancient tradition. Whatever the shortcomings, the University’s system of academical dress possesses the vital element of any such scheme: it is colourful, dignified, but somehow distinctive—slightly different—something Stirling has tried and succeeded in being in its approach to higher education.

Appendix 1

Timeline: the development of academical dress at Stirling

1967

Royal Charter granted (December).

1968

Initial academical dress established:

DUniv. Hood: full shape, malachite green lined with powder blue; gown: dove grey with square loose collar and long sleeves; facings and two inch edging on collar of powder blue.

PhD. Hood: Edinburgh shape, dove grey lined with malachite green; a black masters'-style gown with dove grey facings to be used.

MLitt. Hood: Edinburgh shape, black body lined with malachite green, faced with [stone] white ribbon and bordered with fur;³⁵ a black masters'-style gown to be used.

MSc. Hood: Edinburgh shape, black body lined with malachite green, and bordered with fur; gown as for MLitt.

BA. Hood: Edinburgh shape, black body lined with dove grey; gown as for MLitt.

1975

Hood for BEd established as Edinburgh shape, black body lined with bunting azure blue; a black masters'-style gown to be used.

The *Stirling University Calendar* is published for the first time.

1977

Hood for BSc established as Edinburgh shape, black lined dove grey faced with narrow malachite green ribbon; a black masters'-style gown to be used.

1979

Hood for MEd established as Edinburgh shape, black lined azure blue and bordered with white fur; a black masters'-style gown to be used.

³⁵The description of the MLitt hood omitted 'stone white' until 1985, when the MPhil was established.

1980

Academical dress for MA established as full shape hood, black lined Medici crimson; a black masters'-style gown faced with 2.5 inches of Medici crimson to be used.

1981

Hood for BEducStud established as Edinburgh shape, black lined sapphire blue; a black masters'-style gown to be used.

1985

Hood for MPhil established as Edinburgh shape, black lined with stone white silk, faced with malachite green silk and bordered with fur; a black masters'-style gown to be used.

Ede & Ravenscroft acquire the academic dress business of Tredlon-Forsyth, Glasgow and become (in effect) robemakers to the University. (The University *Calendar* does not list this as an 'official' appointment, but all graduation hires are handled by Ede & Ravenscroft.) Another supplier of robes for the University, James How of Edinburgh, ceased trading at about this time.

1986

Hood for MBA established as Edinburgh shape, black lined with maroon silk and bordered with fur; a black masters'-style gown to be used.

1988

Academical dress for DLitt and DSc established. Hoods: DLitt—full shape, dove grey lined with violet silk; DSc—full shape, dove grey lined with crocus silk. Gown: a dove grey masters'-style gown with facings of the colour of the hood lining.

1989

Hood for BAcc established as Edinburgh shape, black lined with calamine blue; a black masters'-style gown to be used.

1997

Hood for BM/BN established as Edinburgh shape, black body lined with dove grey, and faced with azure blue; a black masters'-style gown to be used.

Hood for DipHE established as Edinburgh shape, black body faced with azure blue; a black masters'-style gown to be used.

2000

Academical dress established for EdD. Hood: Edinburgh shape, dove grey lined azure blue. A black masters'-style gown with dove grey facings to be used.

Hood for BSW established as Edinburgh shape, black lined with dove grey and faced with crocus; a black masters'-style gown to be used.

2005

Academical dress established for new professional doctorates. Hoods: DBA—Edinburgh shape, dove grey lined maroon; DM/DN—Edinburgh shape, dove grey lined dove grey, faced with azure blue. A black masters'-style gown with dove grey facings to be used.

Academical dress established for new masters' degrees. Hoods: MM/MN—Edinburgh shape, black lined dove grey, faced with azure blue and bordered with white fur; MRes—Edinburgh shape, black lined malachite green, faced with dove grey and bordered with fur A black masters'-style gown to be used.

2006

Hood for LLB established as Edinburgh shape, black lined dove grey, faced with maroon; a black masters'-style gown to be used.

Hood for LLM established as Edinburgh shape, black lined dove grey, faced with maroon, bordered with fur; a black masters'-style gown to be used.

Hood for PGDip established as Edinburgh shape, black body faced with dove grey; a black masters'-style gown to be used.

Appendix 2

Rules for use of academic dress

- 1 On ceremonial occasions, including ceremonies for the conferment of degrees and other academic distinctions, participating staff and graduates shall wear gowns and hoods appropriate to the academic awards they hold.

On such occasions special robes and headgear may be worn by the Chancellor, and by the Principal and Vice-Chancellor.

Non-graduates who participate in ceremonies shall wear a gown of black, masters' style.

- 2 Academic dress for a graduate of the University of Stirling shall consist of only a gown and a hood, as determined by the Academic Council from time to time for each award it has power to grant according to the University's Ordinances.

Academic Dress

Gowns:

DUniv†	Dove grey with square loose collar and long sleeves; facings and 2 inch edging on collar of powder blue.
MA†	Black, masters style with 2.5 inch facing of Medici crimson
DLitt	Dove grey, masters style with violet facings
DSc	Dove grey, masters style with crocus facings
PhD, [DASR], DBA, DM, DN, EdD	Black, masters style with dove grey facings
BA, BAcc, BEd, BEducStudies, BM, BN, BSc, BSW, MBA, MEd, MLitt, MPhil, MRes, MSc, MM, MN, DipHE and PGDip —	black, masters style

Hoods:

DUniv†	Full shape, malachite green lined with powder blue
MA†	Full shape, black body lined with Medici crimson
DLitt	Full shape, dove grey body lined with violet
DSc	Full shape, dove grey body lined with crocus
PhD	Edinburgh shape, dove grey lined with malachite green
DASR	<i>To be determined</i>
DBA	Edinburgh shape, dove grey lined with maroon

DM, DN	Edinburgh shape, dove grey lined with dove grey and edged with azure blue
EdD	Edinburgh shape, dove grey lined with azure blue
MBA	Edinburgh shape, black body lined with maroon, and bordered with fur
MEd	Edinburgh shape, black body lined with bunting azure blue and bordered with fur
LLM	Edinburgh shape, black body lined with dove grey, edged with maroon and bordered with fur
MLitt	Edinburgh shape, black body lined with malachite green, edged with stone white ribbon and bordered with fur
MM and MN	Edinburgh shape, black body lined with dove grey, edged with azure blue and bordered with fur
MPhil	Edinburgh shape, black body lined with stone white, edged with malachite green ribbon and bordered with fur
MRes	Edinburgh shape, black body lined with malachite green, edged with dove grey and bordered with fur
MSc	Edinburgh shape, black body lined with malachite green, and bordered with fur
BA	Edinburgh shape, black body lined with dove grey
BAcc	Edinburgh shape, black body lined with calamine blue
BEd§	Edinburgh shape, black body lined with bunting azure blue
BEducStud§	Edinburgh shape, black body lined with sapphire blue
LLB	Edinburgh shape, black body lined with dove grey, and edged with maroon
BM and BN	Edinburgh shape, black body lined with dove grey, and edged with azure blue
BSc	Edinburgh shape, black body lined with dove grey, and edged with malachite green ribbon
BSW	Edinburgh shape, black body lined with dove grey, and edged with crocus
DipHE	Edinburgh shape, black body edged with azure blue
PGDip	Edinburgh shape, black body edged with dove grey

Notes

† *Honorary degree*

§ *Discontinued*

Source: University of Stirling Calendar 2006-07 supplemented by information from Ede & Ravenscroft

Colours used by the University of Stirling

		<i>BCC code</i>
Azure blue	A strong, deep light blue	BCC 151
Calamine blue	Lighter than azure blue, hint of grey	
Crocus	Light violet	BCC 177
Dove grey	A light silver-grey	BCC 231
Malachite green	Dark green	BCC 23
Maroon	Deep claret	BCC 37
Medici crimson	Deep red	BCC 240
Powder blue	A light blue	BCC 193
Sapphire blue	Calamine blue, but with a hint of robin's egg	BCC 88
Stone white	Natural: white with a hint of grey	BCC 61
Violet	A deep blue-purple	BCC 179

Source: Ede & Ravenscroft/R. W. Forsyth



Fig. 1. The BA hood



Fig. 2. The Chancellor presenting a BA



Fig. 3. The Principal and Vice-Chancellor presenting a BM/BN



Fig. 4. The Principal and Vice-Chancellor with an MA



Fig. 5. Two BSc graduates



Fig. 6. The Vice-Chancellor, the Chairman of the University Court (DUniv), the President of the Students' Association (BA), and the Chancellor



Fig. 7. An MPhil, informally attired and with the hood pulled too far down in front—but displaying the fur characteristic of masters' hoods at the University of Stirling

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