Student Orator

Key Milestones
Stage 1: Submission of application form by midnight on Monday 17 April.
Stage 2: Submission of a short video by midnight on Friday 5 May.
Successful Candidates informed week commencing Monday 22 May.

What is Student Oration?
At each graduation ceremony there will be an opportunity for a graduating student to deliver a speech to their fellow graduands, guests and the academic staff.

This is an opportunity for Royal Holloway graduands to share their experiences and thank those who have supported them during their time at Royal Holloway.

The speech should last 4-5 minutes (approximately 350-700 words).

Successful candidates
Each successful orator will also receive VIP seats for their guests.

Stage one
Graduands will be asked to complete an application form on MS Teams indicating why they would like to deliver the student speech at your ceremony. Please note this is a maximum of 200 words.

• The application form will be open between March 27- April 17. Please click HERE to complete the form.
• All graduands must complete the application before midnight April 17 to be considered as a Student Orator.

Stage two
We ask that all students who have completed Stage One, create a 1–2-minute talk for video. The focus of the video is an experience at Royal Holloway that has been transformational. For example:

• a turning point in your academic studies,
• a positive memory of an extra-curricular activity
• a social experience with students from different backgrounds

In the short talk, we ask the graduands to make sure they reflect on what the experience has enabled them to learn.

The video must be uploaded on to Panopto by midnight on May 5. More information on how to upload your video will be sent to all students who have completed the stage one week, commencing 17 April.

Marking criteria
Once submitted, both the content of the video and their communications skills will be assessed. We are looking for speakers who can:

• convey a positive message about their experience at Royal Holloway that is uplifting, inclusive and thought-provoking
• communicate in a clear, engaging way with good eye contact and vocal delivery that demonstrates varied pitch and pace
For guidance on how to prepare for the Stage Two video talk, please find support this Moodle page where graduands can find a range of advice and support.

Next steps for successful candidates
All successful students will be contacted by email, week commencing 22 May

We ask that the final speech is sent to graduation-ceremonies@RHUL.ac.uk by June 2

A one hour briefing session via teams will be held on June 14 between 11-12am via MS teams. This session will cover what to expect on the day and provide the graduands with an opportunity to ask any questions.

Assessment

Please see the criteria below

The student speech should be uplifting and celebratory. Speech must be inclusive, engaging, and relevant

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Communication

Email Template for schools

Subject- Would you like to deliver the student speech at Summer Graduation?

Hi X

We are excited to announce that for summer graduation 2023 we will be inviting all eligible graduands to apply to be a student orator.

What is a student orator
At each graduation ceremony one graduating student will deliver a speech to their fellow graduands, guests and the academic staff. This is a unique opportunity to share your experiences and thank those who have supported you during your time at Royal Holloway.

Please find all the information on how to apply on our webpages HERE.

Kind regards
FAQS

Key dates
Stage 1 Application open week commencing March 27- April 17 midnight
Stage 2 Application open from April 17– May 5
Successful Candidates informed w/c 22 May

Who can apply
- All invited graduands are welcome to apply

What happens on the day
- Student speech will take place at the end of the ceremony after the presentation of graduands
- Full briefing will be provided to successful candidates

How long will the speech need to be
- We ask that the speech is between 4-5 minutes long

How many student speeches per ceremony
- There will be one student speech per ceremony

What happens if I can no longer attend graduation?
- You will be able to re-apply again for the next ceremony should you wish to defer

Unsuccessful candidates
- Due to the number of applications, we are unfortunately, not able to give individual feedback
- Decision is final, we are not offering the opportunity to appeal