Student Orator

Key Milestones
Applications open week commencing Monday 2 October.
Stage 1: Submit your application form by 11:59pm on Monday 16 October.
Stage 2: Submit a short video of you speaking by noon on Monday 13th November.
Successful Candidates informed by Friday 17 November.
Speeches to be submitted Noon Monday 4 December

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 University 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 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 w/c 2 October. Graduands must complete the MS form HERE.
- All graduands must complete the application before 11:59 GMT Monday 16 October 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 noon GMT on Monday 13th November. More information on how to upload the video will be sent to all students who have completed stage one week, commencing 16 October

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
From October 16 we will share further guidance on how to prepare for the Stage Two video talk, please find support on our webpages - Student Oration - Royal Holloway Student Intranet.

**Next steps for successful candidates**
All successful students will be contacted by email by **17 November**.

We ask that the final speech is sent to graduation-ceremonies@RHUL.ac.uk by **4 December**.

A 30 minute briefing session via teams will be held on **November 22 between 11-11.30am via MS teams**. This session will cover what to expect on the day and provide the graduands with an opportunity to ask any questions.

**Past Student orators speeches**

Should you wish to watch the student orators from our Summer 2023 ceremonies, you can find them on our webpages - Video Downloads - Royal Holloway Student Intranet.

Please select the Summer 2023 ceremonies. The orations can be found towards the end of the ceremony.

**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 / staff

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

Hi X

We are excited to announce that after the success of student oration in Summer ceremonies we will be asking our graduands to apply to be orator for the Winter 2023 ceremonies.
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 Student Oration - Royal Holloway Student Intranet (rhul.ac.uk)

Kind regards

We have put together some PDF images to share with staff and students. Please find them on the website alongside the FAQs - Graduation Student Oration and Tickets - Royal Holloway Staff Intranet

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Successful Candidates informed by Friday 17 November.
Online briefing session for successful candidates November 22 between 11-11.30am

FAQs
Who can apply
• All invited graduands are welcome to apply

What happens on the day
• Student speech will take place 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