



IMPORTANT GRADUATION NOTICE

Dear Graduating Students,

Warm greetings from Cavendish University Uganda!

We thank the Almighty God for having blessed and protected you and all your loved ones during this unanticipated and unprecedented time.

I want to acknowledge the current reality that we all face because of the continued threat of COVID-19, and specifically what you, as graduands, are facing. Therefore, if you are feeling uneasy and experiencing uncertainty, you are not alone and have good reason. The uncertainty and lockdown measures occasioned by COVID-19 explain the multiple changes that have been made to the date of the 9th graduation ceremony from 27th March 2020, to 21st May 2020 and now to **28th May 2020**.

Consequently, the University was compelled to develop alternative plans for how and when we should hold graduation this year. As we moved forward in considering the various plans, we sought your views. Thank you to all those who completed our Graduation Survey. The majority of respondents were agreeable to virtual graduation while others preferred to have the traditional in-person ceremony at a time when this public health crisis is over.

After much careful thought and consideration, the University administration decided to hold a *Scientific and Blended Virtual Graduation* that will be **broadcast live** online **for all eligible students** on **Thursday 28th May 2020** at **Speke Resort Munyonyo** starting at **10:00 am** presided over virtually by the Chancellor H.E. Benjamin Mkapa.

All graduands who will graduate virtually on 28th May 2020 but wish to experience the “**graduation walk**” and associated feel of the traditional in-person event will be invited to **participate in the next graduation ceremony “to walk”, take photographs, wear the graduation attire and get the opportunity to celebrate with friends and family.**

We recognise that our class of 2020 is graduating in a volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous (VUCA) period. We shall therefore organise webinars on the theme “**Tips for Entrepreneurship and Employability during and post COVID-19**” to further and better prepare and equip CUU graduates for the world of work.

Below are responses to some of the questions you may have and to concerns you have raised through various channels:

1. Why do you describe this year’s graduation ceremony as scientific, blended and virtual?

The event will be scientific because we will observe the scientific guidelines of the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organisation (WHO) such as social distancing (over a two- metre radius), use of face masks, taking a short duration (maximum two hours), using a wide venue with sufficient ventilation that permits the flow of natural air,

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permitting few participants (not exceeding 20 people), sanitising the entire venue and provision of sanitary facilities to the participants on entry and exit.

It will be blended because only a few people will be present in-person at the graduation venue while the ceremony will be streamed live on Television, Facebook and other digital media to enable the vast majority of the graduands, their parents, families, friends and all our stakeholders to follow the ceremony live in real-time but also be able to view it later.

2. Why the rush for virtual graduation? Can't we wait until there is a semblance of normality?

Proceeding with the graduation of all eligible students now will enable them to obtain their academic documents to be able to secure jobs or pursue further education if they so wish. Graduating now rather than later will enable graduands to compete more favourably for any available jobs, promotions, and survive better the post- COVID-19 employment environment, which is likely to be characterised by new job scarcity, retrenchments, and the like.

Yet, being student-centred, and to ensure the interests of those who responded NO to virtual graduation, we will invite **all 2020 graduates** to experience the in-person “**graduation walk**” at our next ceremony in 2021 assuming that the public health crisis will be over. The Scientific and Blended Virtual graduation is, therefore, a win-win situation for all.

3. How will the academic documents (Transcripts and Certificates) be verified and delivered?

- The names of the graduands will be published on the University Website;
- We shall send soft copies of the academic documents to the graduates via email;
- The Certificate, Transcript and copy of the graduation book will be delivered by courier to the Office of the Education Attaché at the various embassies in Kampala for countries with CUU International graduates or arrange collection from the University by the graduates in Uganda.
- The academic documents can be verified using the Certificate Verification Service (CVS) link on our website.

4. Will graduation fees be paid by those who choose to return for the “graduation walk” at the next graduation ceremony?

- No further graduation fees shall be payable by the students who choose to “walk” at the next graduation ceremony
- Graduation fees for the 9th Graduation Ceremony will be maintained to cover the costs related to, among others, certificate and transcript printing and delivery, as well as, the CVS service.

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If you have a question not covered in this communication and on the University website <https://cavendish.ac.ug/>, please contact the Dean of Students (DoS): Ms Hope Byachi by email to dos@cavendish.ac.ug; or call phone number +256 (0)776131280.

Remember that we continue to be here for you. Together, we will make it through this. Remain steadfast, as I am, in the knowledge that the transformative education you have received at CUU, the relationships you built, the learning you achieved and the experiences you had during your time here on campus—will serve you well in the years to come. Success begins at Cavendish.

Stay safe and be well.

Warmest Regards,

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Dr Olive Sabiiti
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic Affairs)