

1-1-2016

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Recommended Citation

Chiu, Peter P.K. (2016) "Academic Dress in China from 1994 to 2011," *Transactions of the Burgon Society*. Vol. 16. <https://doi.org/10.4148/2475-7799.1141>

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Academic Dress in China from 1994 to 2011

By Peter P. K. Chiu

This article reports the development of academic dress in China¹ from the year 1994 to 2011. China has two self-governing special administrative regions (Hong Kong and Macau), and claims sovereignty over Taiwan; these three areas are not included in this study because the laws of China do not apply directly in them. As a result, academic dress in these areas has been influenced by different parts of the world. For example, the University of Hong Kong was strongly influenced by universities from the United Kingdom. Two important dates marked milestones in the development of the academic degree as well as in academic dress in China. On 12 February 1980, the 13th Plenary Session of the Standing Committee of the 5th National People's Congress formally adopted the Regulations of the People's Republic of China on Academic Degrees, which became effective in January 1981,² and hereinafter are referred to as 'the regulations'. This was followed by a notice on 'Recommendations for using academic dress in China' issued by the government in 1994³ which set a framework for the use of academic dress in China, and are hereinafter referred to as 'the recommendations'. Following the regulations and recommendations, academic dress has been enhanced in different aspects. This article will be based on the only

My deepest gratitude goes to Professor Bruce Christianson, who at the time was Dean of Studies, the Burgon Society, for his kind encouragement, care, and support. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to the examiners who made a critical study of the FBS dissertation on which this article is based, and provided a number of valuable comments. New observations and findings were achieved because of all this. Furthermore, I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks to Dr Zhang Lei (张磊博士) and Dr Sun Xin (孙昕博士) of the Tsinghua University, China. We had a wonderful discussion and they introduced me to the three important books in this area. Without such invaluable information, this research project could not be completed with such results. Last but not least, I wish to thank Ms. Maureen Lam, my colleague who introduced Dr Zhang to me and shared with me her insight into the education system in China, which is rather complicated nowadays, as well as for proof-reading the article with many valuable comments.

1 Officially the People's Republic of China.

2 Official website <npc.gov.cn/englishnpc/Law/2007-12/13/content_1384052.htm>.

3 The Academic Degrees Committee of the State Council, "Notice Regarding Recommendations on Using Academic Dress" (1994), No. 22, 国务院学位委员会办公室《关于推荐使用学位服的通知》(学位办[1994]22号) [An official English translation of the document is not available in the website. The English title and the contents of the document were translated from Chinese by the author and appear in this article as Appendix B. The title is translated slightly differently from the translation by Charles Ko in 'The Development of Academic Dress in China', *TBS*, 14 (2014), pp. 60–68.]

book about academic dress in China⁴ and the three books *One/Two/Three Decade(s) of Academic Degrees Conferred in China*, which contain an array of photographs that show the development and tell the story of the academic dress before and after the implementation of the recommendations.

Establishment of the University System in China

In China, education has been developing for several thousand years. Around the end of the nineteenth century, more and more people from China were aware of the development of the academic system in the West as well as in Japan, and a new university system thus evolved. The universities were set up in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Nine universities established during this period form the C9 League⁵ (see Table 1).

Table 1

Year Founded	University
1896	Shanghai Jiao Tong University(上海交通大学)
1896	Xi'an Jiaotong University (西安交通大学)
1897	Zhejiang University (浙江大学)
1898	Peking University (北京大学)
1902	Nanjing University (南京大学)
1905	Fudan University (复旦大学)
1911	Tsing Hua University (清华大学)
1920	Harbin Institute of Technology (哈尔滨工业大学)
1958	University of Science and Technology of China (中国科学技术大学)

When these universities were established, a degree-awarding system was in place, but no provision was made for academic dress because of the unstable political and poor economic situation during these years. Subsequently, the regulations and the recommendations were enforced and form the basis of this study.

*A summary of the Regulations*⁶

The regulations are presented in full as Appendix A of this article, in their official English version. The key points of the regulations are as follows:

- The purpose of academic degrees.
- There shall be three grades: the bachelor's degree, the master's degree and doctor's degree.
- Academic standards of these degrees.
- The State Council shall establish an Academic Degree Committee to direct the work of conferring academic degrees throughout the country.

4 Ma Jiu Cheng and Li Jun, *The Study of Domestic and Foreign Academic Dress* (China Renmin University Press, 2003) [In Chinese] 中外学位服研究, 作者: 马久成李军, 中国人民大学出版社, 2003.

5 See <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/C9_League>.

6 Official website at <npc.gov.cn/englishnpc/Law/2007-12/13/content_1384052.htm>.

- The setting up of the academic evaluation committee and dissertation committees for the disciplines concerned.
- Handling of postgraduates who have completed their studies in units not authorized to confer degrees by applying to nearby degree-conferring units for academic degrees.
- Conferment of honorary doctor's degree upon nomination by a degree-conferring unit and with the approval of the Academic Degrees Committee of the State Council.
- Foreign students and scholars engaged in research work in China may apply to a degree-conferring unit for academic degrees.
- Handling of irregularities and fraudulent practices.

A note on the continued use of academic dress in the style of Han-fu (汉服)

The Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics uses Han-fu⁷ for some of its ceremonial activity such as the 'memorial ceremonies of Confucius' (祭孔). For graduation ceremonies, Nanjing is now using a more Western style of academic dress and follows the recommendations. The use of Han-fu is still controversial.⁸ When Han-fu is considered as a major ethnic dress, people emphasize that it should reflect Chinese culture, which was the main purpose in its adoption. It seems that Jiangsu Normal University (江苏师范大学) is the only university that still uses academic dress in the Han-fu style.⁹

Literature search

It was found that a lot of information was copied among different websites in China without providing sources. The reliability and the accuracy of such information is questionable. Many websites have copied Ma and Li.¹⁰ Apart from the two documents known as the regulations and the recommendations, the following is an annotated list of major references for this project:

Charles Ko, 'The Development of Academic Dress in China', *TBS*, 14 (2014), pp. 60-68, which is the only known paper in English in this area and includes a discussion of the Han-fu style of academic dress.

Ma Jiu Cheng and Li Jun, *The Study of Domestic and Foreign Academic Dress* (China Renmin University Press, 2003) [in Chinese]. 中外学位服研究，作者：马久成李军，中国人民大学出版社，2003. This is a very valuable book in this area. The authors understand foreign academic dress and Chinese classical dress well so they are able to relate many interesting concepts such as the origin of the Chinese terms for bachelor (学士), master (硕士) and doctor

⁷ Han-fu (see <<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hanfu>>) was a form of Chinese clothing in the Han dynasty (206 BCE-220 CE, see <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Han_dynasty>). The Han-fu style of academic dress is documented in Ko.

⁸ Personal communication with a professor at Tsing Hua University.

⁹ See <chinakongmiao.org/templates/T_FocusTopics/index.aspx?nodeid=1126&page=ContentPage&contentid=9815>.

¹⁰ 中外学位服研究，作者：马久成李军，中国人民大学出版社，2003.

(博士). However, some of their drawings of gowns differ slightly from those in the official Recommendations. This had consequences, because some universities followed the designs from their drawings.

A Decade of Academic Degrees Conferral in China: 1980-1990 (Beijing: Office of the Academic Degrees Committee of the State Council, the People's Republic of China, 1991). This book is a formal record of the development of the academic degree with a lot of photographs, as are its successors:

Two Decades of Academic Degrees Conferral in China: 1981-2001 (Beijing: Office of the Academic Degrees Committee of the State Council, the People's Republic of China, 2001).

Three Decades of Academic Degrees Conferral in China: 1981-2011 (Beijing: Office of the Academic Degrees Committee of the State Council, the People's Republic of China, 2011).

The last three books are referred to as *ADCSC (1991)*, *ADCSC (2001)*, and *ADCSC (2011)*, respectively.

'Notice Regarding Recommendations on Using Academic Dress'

关于推荐使用学位服的通知¹¹

This notice was issued by the Academic Degrees Committee of the State Council on 10 May 1994 and is the only document about the regulations on Academic Dress in China. One known full version in Chinese is available on the internet¹² and an English version translated by the author is presented as Appendix B (and hereinafter referred to as the internet version). This version is the focus of our study. It has two annexes, one is to show a sample of academic dress (学位服简样)¹³ and the other is about the dress code (学位服着装规范).¹⁴ There are two more versions. One is in the appendix of the book by Ma and Li (hereinafter referred to as the book version). The third is the figures¹⁵ from the same book, which will be presented in the later part of this article (and are hereinafter referred as the figure version).

In the main text of the recommendations, six points are raised as follows:

- The purpose of academic dress;
- The four major parts of academic dress: cap, tassel, gown and hood;
- The list of people entitled to wear academic dress, and the only occasions on which they are allowed to do so;
- Adopting the system of academic dress and the abolition of academic dress in other styles;
- Stringent compliance with the technical requirements; and
- Custody and management of use.

11 The Academic Degrees Committee of the State Council, 'Notice Regarding Recommendations on Using Academic Dress' (1994), No. 22 [国务院学位委员会办公室《关于推荐使用学位服的通知》(学位办[1994]22号)].

12 Official website from a university at <<http://jpkc.nynu.edu.cn/xwb/xiazai%5C国务院推荐使用学位服的通知.doc>> [retrieved 30 July 2016].

13 *Ibid.* 11, Annex I to Appendix B.

14 *Ibid.* 11, Annex II to Appendix B.

15 *Ibid.* 4.3

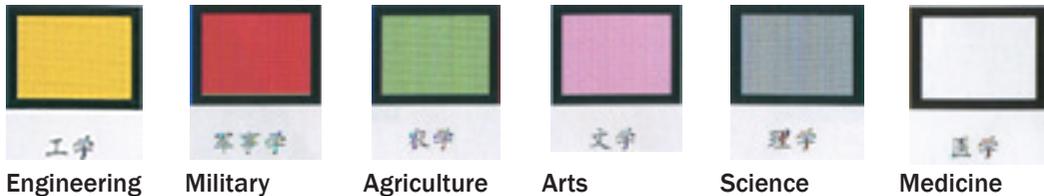


FIG. 1 Cap



FIG. 2 Hood

FIG. 3 Colour of hood linings



After studying the text of *the recommendations*, some observations include:

If Recommendation 2 is studied carefully, the uniformity of academic dress for masters and doctoral degrees is specified but not those of university officials. Thus, it is the trend that the universities use this flexibility to introduce their own academic dress in a 'more free' style.

In spite of the regulations, there is no mention of academic dress for honorary or bachelors' degrees.

The pattern on the shell of the hood is not specified in the text of the recommendations. However, as shown in Figure 2, the pattern uses peonies. Furthermore, it is stated in the last statement of Recommendation 5 that for 'the relevant technical standards and issues about making academic dress, please contact the School of Fashion or Research Office of Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology.' This explains how consistency is achieved even though details are not included in the recommendations.

When the internet version is compared with the book version, there are two differences. The first one is in the figure caption. In the internet version, the caption is 'president gown' and in book version, it is 'supervisor gown'. A minor difference is that in the figure in the internet version, the different parts of the cap are annotated but not in the figure in the book version. This shows one issue: Different versions of the document have been circulated. One more significant problem regards the number of buttons for the gown. Pictures were drawn incorrectly in the book version and this may explain why some of the academic gowns have a different number of buttons from those stipulated in the recommendations.

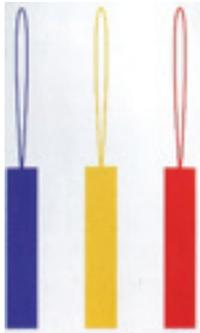


FIG. 4 Tassels



FIG. 5 Master



FIG. 6 Doctor

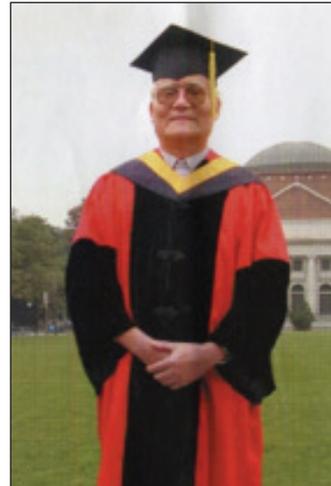


FIG. 7 Supervisor



FIG. 8 Comparison of the gowns for the doctorate (left) and supervisor

Four major parts of academic dress

The recommendations specify four components of academic dress: cap, tassel, hood and gown. All graduates wear a black square cap as shown in Figure 1.¹⁶ The hood (design shown in Fig. 2¹⁷) has a lining of a colour that depends on the academic speciality (as shown in Fig. 3¹⁸). Different tassels and gowns are designed for different degrees (doctor or master) or university official (supervisor or president). Tassels come in three colours: for master's degrees (blue), doctoral degrees (red), university officials¹⁹ (yellow) (in Fig. 4).²⁰

Graduates/university officials in academic dress from the book version are shown in Figures 5 to 7²¹ and those from the internet version are shown in Figures B1, B2 and B3 in Appendix B for masters, doctors and 'university officials' respectively. The Great Wall sleeve pattern is clearly spelt out in the internet version but is not clearly shown in the book version, which may also be why in some gowns, the Great Wall pattern is not included.

In the Figures B1–B3, in the annex to the recommendations, there are three buttons for masters' degrees and four buttons for doctoral degrees and university officials. Figure 8 shows a pair of pictures from the figure version. There are only two buttons for doctoral gowns and university officials. This is contrary to the book version. Some universities followed the figure but with an incorrect design for the gown.

It is very difficult to count the number of buttons in Figures 5 to 7 because the bottom button could be covered by the wearer's hands. Furthermore, as stated in Point 4 of Annex II to Appendix B, 'the loop of the hood is tied on the top button of the gown.'

Academic dress in China from 1980 to 1990

When the sources were studied, there were only four photographs related to the degree-awarding ceremonies predating the recommendations' being issued. In these figures, no one wore academic dress, not even university officials. In one of these figures, the president of the university and students were from the National Defense University and wore their military uniform instead. As the recommendations were not implemented yet, there was no provision for academic dress for these degree-conferring occasions.

Other photographs show how the recommendations were implemented fully without any modification or adaptation. The photographs that show the academic dress of the doctoral graduates and the supervisor/president were studied. The design of these gowns is similar except for the colours in different parts of the dress, which are reversed. There is also no major difference between the academic dress of an earned doctoral degree and an honorary doctoral degree. In some of the photographs, the gowns of the honorary doctors or the president are made of different fabrics (i.e., the gowns are shinier than the others).

16 Ma and Li.

17 *Ibid.*

18 *Ibid.*

19 Recommendation 2, refers to 'academic dress (president)'. The term 'university official' is used here for two reasons. The first is that this refers to different people, from supervisor to president of the university, etc. Second, the internet version and book version of the recommendations do not agree in their terminology. Both terms 'academic dress (president)' and 'academic dress (supervisor)' are used. There is no official version of the recommendations available on the internet.

20 Ma and Li.

21 *Ibid.*

Academic dress that deviates from the recommendations is also found in the book. For example, in one photograph the academic dress of the vice-president differs from the standard design in three aspects. The edge of the skull-cap is trimmed with a yellow/gold cord. For the hood, there is an edge lining in yellow/gold. The sleeves of the gown are different from the recommendations. Compared with the cap, hood and gown of other university presidents, they were designed in a totally different manner.

In another photograph, master's degree recipients wear tassels and gowns that are not blue, and in addition the hood does not follow the recommendations. This is uncommon. In the case that the degree was awarded jointly by the two universities, this academic dress does not follow the recommendations. In two figures, both the academic dress for the president and the honorary doctorate are basically the same except for the colours of the three bands on the sleeves. In one of the figures the academic dress probably follows the American style though the name of the university and details not known. The gowns are black instead of blue, the tassel is yellow/gold instead of blue, and the colour of the hood is yellow.

Academic dress in China from 1991 to 2011

The major deviation from the recommendations is for the gowns of the university officials. Red and gold are the typical colours for such official dress. For example, for the academic dress of a university president, the whole gown was red and the hood was red with gold lining. There are also examples in which the colour of the three bands on each sleeve is different, such as three bands in gold for one university and three bands in dark blue for another.

One interesting example, from Tsing Hua University, comes in comparing the academic dress of doctoral graduates with that of the president. Photographs of these two in the early implementation and recent implementation are compared. In the first implementation of the recommendations, the academic dress of the president and the doctoral graduate follow Recommendation 2 and thus their academic dress was similar in style but reversed in the colours of the gowns. In a more recent implementation, a totally different design is adopted for the academic dress of both the honorary doctoral graduate and the president of the university. Only their caps and tassels follow the recommendations. The president's gown has two buttons. Bill Gates' gown seems to have two as well. For the president, the hood adopts the official colour (purple) of the university plus red, yellow and colourful linings. The sleeves of Mr Gates's gown are Cambridge doctors' style ([d1] in the Groves Classification system),²² but closed with 'good luck' buttons (see Fig. 9).²³ The new design of the academic dress may be influenced by the West because there is a strong growth in exchange between the universities in China and in the West. For example, at a number of graduation ceremonies that the author has witnessed, officials from Western universities were invited as guests, giving people more views of Western academic dress. The academic dress for both the president and honorary doctorate is more eye-catching in the recent implementation when compared to the earlier one.

²² Nicholas Groves, ed., *Shaw's Academical Dress of Great Britain and Ireland* (London: Burgon Society, 2011), p. 9.

²³ The 'good luck' button is described in Appendix C, Point 2., C. —Ed.

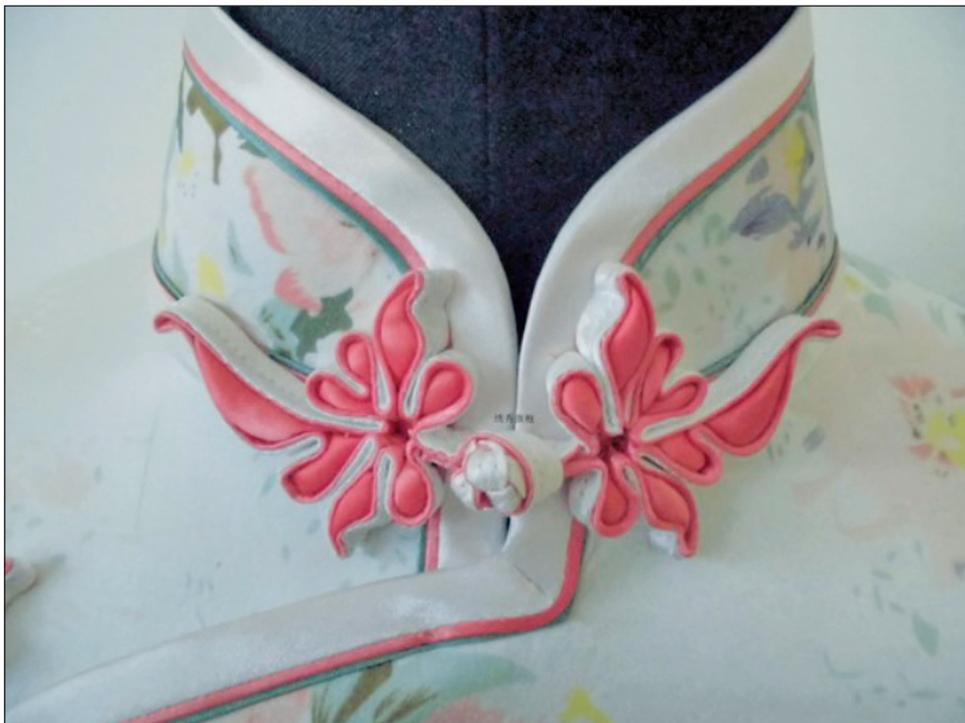


FIG. 9 An example of good luck buttons. See Appendix C, point 2. C. Gown, p. 85.

In one of the figures the emblem of the university is on the gown. There are only two buttons on the gown of the honorary doctorate. The two-button gown may be made following the picture shown in the figure version which is incorrect on this point, showing that universities do not always follow the recommendations correctly, but make academic dress following other available sources of information.

Besides all these findings, it was found that the pattern on the shell of the hood is not specified in the recommendations. However, in the sample²⁴ the pattern uses peonies, which seems to be universal practice. Furthermore, Recommendation 5 states, '[for] the relevant technical standards and issues about making academic dress, please contact School of Fashion or Research Office of Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology.'

There was no photograph with graduates in Han-fu in any of the three books. There are two possible reasons for this. One reason is that Han-fu was not adopted widely. Only one major university is known to adopt this formally. The second reason is that it fails to follow the recommendations and thus is not supported by the government.

24 Annex I to Appendix B.

Conclusion

In this article, a review of academic dress in China between 1994 to 2011 is presented. There was no academic dress in the period leading up to 1994 because of the unstable political and poor economic situation during these years.

Another contribution of this article is a detailed study of the recommendations in a nationwide policy on academic dress. We have found that these recommendations specify the uniformity of academic dress for masters' and doctoral degrees but not for the bachelors' degree. The academic dress of university officials was specified but was only a recommendation. There are also differences in the versions of the recommendations both in book form and on the internet. The implementation details for Xiamen University were provided, which enhanced uniformity.

Furthermore, a detailed study of the three books from the Office of the Academic Degrees Committee of the State Council has been presented. This shows the trend from having no academic dress to having academic dress in a more uniform way. Since then, academic dress has become more distinctive for university presidents. Han-fu seems to be not widely supported. Another major finding of this work is that in China there are different implementations of the recommendations. Some of this deviation (e.g. the number of buttons, the Great Wall pattern) was caused by referring to indirect information, such as a book, rather than the original document of the recommendations.

In terms of further work, there are two directions. One would be an historical account of the (academic) dress of scholar-officials in China under the Imperial Examination system which had its peak at the Qing Dynasty, from which period a great deal of documentation is available. This would also cover the development of the national academy called Guozijian (國子監). The Chinese origin of the titles bachelor (學士), master (碩士) and doctor (博士) is also interesting. Another direction would be to study academic dress for selected universities in China (e.g., Tsing Hua University), Hong Kong (e.g., The University of Hong Kong, established in 1911), Macau (e.g., University of Macau, established in 1981) as well as in Taiwan (e.g., National Taiwan University, established in 1928) that were influenced by different sovereignty. There have been many developments in recent decades because of the expansion of the variety of programmes in this period under the influence of the West.

Appendix A: Academic Degrees Committee of the State Council Office Regulations of the People's Republic of China on Academic Degrees²⁵

(Adopted at the 13th Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Fifth National People's Congress and promulgated by Order No. 4 of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress on February 12, 1980; and amended in accordance with the Decision on Amending the Regulations of the People's Republic of China on Academic Degrees adopted at the 11th Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Tenth National People's Congress on August 28, 2004.)

Article 1 These Regulations are formulated for the purpose of promoting the growth of specialized personnel, helping to raise the academic level of various branches of learning and promoting the development of education and science in our country, in order to meet the needs of socialist modernization.

Article 2 Any citizen who supports the leadership of the Communist Party of China and the socialist system and has attained certain academic standards may apply for an appropriate academic degree in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations.

Article 3 Academic degrees shall be of three grades: the bachelor's degree, the master's degree and the doctor's degree.

Article 4 The bachelor's degree shall be conferred on graduates from institutions of higher learning who have good academic records and have attained the following academic standards:

(1) having a relatively good grasp of basic theories, specialized knowledge and basic skills in the discipline concerned; and

(2) having initially acquired the ability to undertake scientific research or to engage in a special technical work.

Article 5 The master's degree shall be conferred on postgraduates in institutions of higher learning or scientific research institutes or persons with qualifications equivalent to postgraduates on graduation, who have passed examinations in the required courses for the master's degree and successfully defended their dissertations and have attained the following academic standards:

(1) having a firm grasp of basic theories and systematic, specialized knowledge in the discipline concerned; and

(2) having the ability to undertake scientific research or independently to engage in a special technical work.

Article 6 The doctor's degree shall be conferred on postgraduates in institutions of higher learning or scientific research institutes or persons with qualifications equivalent to postgraduates on graduation, who have passed examinations in the required courses for the doctor's degree and successfully defended their dissertations and have attained the following academic standards:

(1) having a firm and comprehensive grasp of basic theories and profound and systematic specialized knowledge in the discipline concerned;

(2) having the ability to undertake independent scientific research; and

²⁵ Official website at <npc.gov.cn/englishnpc/Law/2007-12/13/content_1384052.htm>.

(3) having made creative achievements in science or in a special technology.

Article 7 The State Council shall establish an Academic Degrees Committee to direct the work of conferring academic degrees throughout the country. The Academic Degrees Committee shall consist of a chairman, vice-chairmen and other members. The chairman, vice-chairmen and other members shall be appointed and removed by the State Council.

Article 8 The bachelor's degree shall be conferred by those institutions of higher learning authorized by the State Council. The master's and doctor's degrees shall be conferred by those institutions of higher learning and scientific research institutes authorized by the State Council.

A list of institutions of higher learning and scientific research institutes that may confer academic degrees (hereinafter referred to as 'degree-conferring units') and the disciplines in which academic degrees may be conferred shall be submitted to the State Council by its Academic Degrees Committee for approval and promulgation.

Article 9 Each degree-conferring unit shall establish an academic degree evaluation committee and form dissertation committees for the disciplines concerned.

A dissertation committee must include relevant specialists from other units, and the committee members shall be selected and determined by the degree-conferring unit concerned. A list of the members of the academic degree evaluation committee shall be decided on by the degree-conferring unit and submitted to the relevant departments of the State Council and the Academic Degrees Committee of the State Council for the record.

Article 10 The dissertation committee shall be responsible for examining the dissertation for master's or doctor's degrees, organizing their oral defence and adopting resolutions whether or not to confer the master's or doctor's degrees. Each resolution shall be adopted by secret ballot and with a two-thirds majority of the committee members supporting and then submitted to the academic degree evaluation committee.

The academic degree evaluation committee shall be responsible for examining and approving the list of holders of the bachelor's degree and for making a decision whether or not to approve each resolution on the conferment of a master's or doctor's degree submitted by the dissertation committee. Each decision shall be adopted by secret ballot and with a simple majority of the committee members supporting. The list of persons to be conferred a master's or doctor's degree shall be submitted to the Academic Degrees Committee of the State Council for the record.

Article 11 After a resolution to confer an academic degree has been adopted by the academic degree evaluation committee, the degree-conferring unit shall issue an appropriate diploma to the holder of the academic degree.

Article 12 Postgraduates who have completed their studies in units that are not authorized to confer academic degrees may, upon the recommendation of their respective units, apply to nearby degree-conferring units for academic degrees. They shall be conferred appropriate degrees after their applications have been examined and approved by the degree-conferring units and they have successfully defended their dissertations and attained the academic standards stipulated in these Regulations.

Article 13 Upon the recommendation of relevant specialists and with the approval of the degree-conferring units, those who have written important works or made inventions, discoveries or other contributions to the development of science or special technologies may be exempt from examinations in the required courses for the doctor's degree and may

directly take the oral examinations on their doctoral dissertations. Those who have successfully defended their dissertations shall be conferred the doctor's degree.

Article 14 Distinguished scholars and well-known public figures, both Chinese and foreign, may be conferred an honorary doctor's degree, upon the nomination of a degree-conferring unit and with the approval of the Academic Degrees Committee of the State Council.

Article 15 Foreign students studying in China and foreign scholars engaged in research work in China may apply to a degree-conferring unit for academic degrees. Those who have attained the academic standards stipulated in these Regulations shall be conferred appropriate degrees.

Article 16 If an academic body or a unit not authorized to confer academic degrees does not concur with a resolution or decision on the conferment of an academic degree, it may address its objection to the degree-conferring unit or the Academic Degrees Committee of the State Council, which shall study and deal with the objection thus addressed.

Article 17 If irregularities, fraudulent practices or other situations in gross violation of the provisions of these Regulations are discovered, the degree-conferring unit concerned may revoke the degrees already conferred, after reconsideration by its academic degree evaluation committee.

Article 18 If it is definitely established that a unit authorized to confer academic degrees has not been able to maintain the academic standards of the academic degrees conferred, the State Council may suspend or revoke its status as a degree-conferring unit.

Article 19 Measures for the implementation of these Regulations shall be formulated by the Academic Degrees Committee of the State Council and submitted to the State Council for approval.

Appendix B: Academic Degrees Committee of the State Council Office Notice Regarding Recommendations on Using Academic Dress²⁶ Degree Office [1994] No. 22 (10 May 1994)

In order to further improve the degree system and fulfil the need of ‘reform and opening up’, according to the situation and requirements of the degree-granting institution, the twelfth meeting of the Academic Degrees Committee of the State Council decided to develop a set of standardized academic dress which has the Chinese character and follows the worldwide practice, recommending it to be adopted by the degree-granting units. According to the decision of the State Council Academic Degrees Committee, the recommendations of using academic dress are as follows:

Academic dress is tangible and visible. Implementation of academic dress helps to complete China’s degree system, is conducive to the whole community to further respect for knowledge and talent, and will help to stimulate the motivation of those who pursue learning. It also helps strengthen management of degree-granting work and international exchange.

Standardized academic dress includes those for doctoral and master’s degrees. At the same time, special academic dress is recommended for the president of a college (university, institute), degree committee chairman and members (or teachers) (hereinafter referred to as president’s dress). The academic dress for the bachelor’s degree is temporarily not recommended for implementation.

Academic dress consists of four parts, the cap, tassel, degree gown and hood. The cap is black and square. For the doctoral degree, the tassel of the cap is red, and for the master, the tassel is deep blue. For the president’s cap, the tassel is yellow. For the doctoral degree, each gown is in both black and red; for the master’s degree, in both blue and deep blue. For the president, the gown is in red and black. The trimming of hood is in one of the six colours, i.e. pink, grey, yellow, green, white and red for the specialism of arts, science, engineering, agriculture, medicine, and military.

If a degree-granting institution wishes to reflect the institution, an emblem of the college (university, institute) can be embroidered (printed or woven) on the left breast, or use the institution’s colour in the hood.

The implementation of academic dress is a serious matter. The academic dress can be used only by degree holders, those pursuing degrees, the head of the degree-granting unit (university, institute), chairman and members of degree-evaluating committee (or supervisors) in the degree defence, degree-awarding ceremony, honorary degree awarding ceremony, congregation, anniversary of the college (university, institute), and not allowed to be used on other occasions. Dress code must be followed according to Annex 2.

Each degree-granting unit will decide whether this set of academic dress will be used, in accordance to its actual needs. In the future, academic dress in other styles will be abolished.

²⁶ The translation into English was provided by the author.

As special clothing, academic dress must be made in strict accordance with technical standards. Each degree-granting unit in accordance with the provision of the technical standard can make the dress itself or commission it to be made. For the relevant technical standards and issues about making academic dress, please contact the School of Fashion or Research Office of Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology.

Each degree-granting unit has to keep custody and manage the use of academic dress in a stringent manner

Enclosures: 'Sample of the academic dress' and 'dress code for academic dress'.

Sample of Academic Dress

(学位服简样)

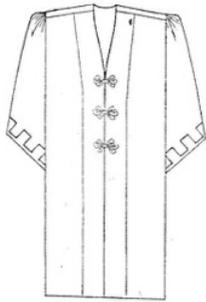


FIG. B1 Master



FIG. B2 Doctor



FIG. B3 Supervisor

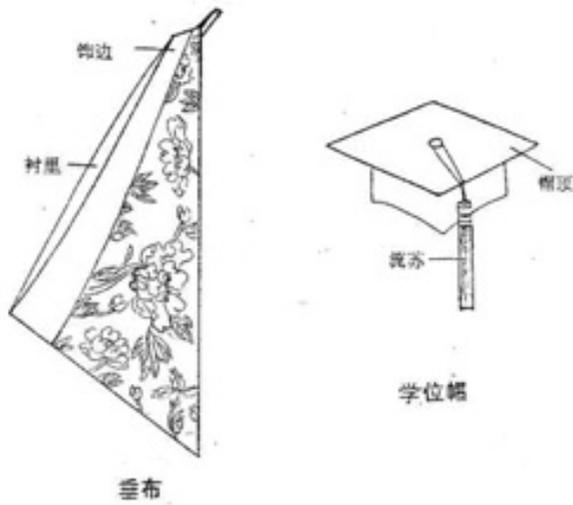


FIG. B4 Hood and cap

Annex II to Appendix B

Dress code²⁷

Academic dress is tangible and visible. Implementation of academic dress helps to complete China's degree system, is conducive to the whole community to further respect for knowledge and talent, and will help to stimulate the motivation of those who pursue education. It also helps strengthen management of degree-granting work and international exchange.

The implementation of academic dress is a serious matter. The academic dress can be used only by degree holders, those pursuing degrees, the head of the degree-granting unit (university, institute), chairman and members of degree-evaluating committee (or supervisors) in the degree defence, degree-awarding ceremony, honorary degree awarding ceremony, congregation, anniversary of the college (university, institute), and not allowed to be used on other occasions.

Academic dress is specialized clothing, the dress code must follow the following requirements:

1. *Cap*

It is square and black.

When wearing academic caps, the lace-up opening of the skull²⁸ is placed at the back of the head and the top of the hat should be parallel to the ground.

2. *Tassel*

For the doctoral degree it is in red, for the master's degree in blue and yellow for the head of college (university and institute).

The tassel hangs from the top of the cap over the edge.

Before a degree has been granted, the tassel hangs on the front right-hand side in the mid-point of the side of the cap. In congregation, after the granting of the degree, the chairman of the degree committee (or head of College, University and Institute) will move the tassel from the front right to the front left-hand side in the mid-point and allow it to hang naturally.

3. *Gown*

The doctoral gown is in black and red, master's gown is in blue and deep blue and for the president, the gown is in red and black.

The gown should fit the body naturally and there shall not be other clothing on top of the gown.

4. *Hood*

It is in the form of a triangular cowl. The trimming of the hood is in one of the six colours, i.e. pink, grey, yellow, green, white, and red for the specialities in arts, science, engineering, agriculture, medicine, and military. [The colour of the shell of the hood is not specified in the recommendations but it seems that black colour is usually adopted.]

²⁷ The translation in English is provided by the author.

²⁸ See Ko, p. 66. —Ed.

The hood is worn outside the gown, its neckband draped over the shoulder. The loop of the hood is attached to the top button of the academic dress. The cowl hangs down the back. The hood follows the specialities of arts, science, engineering, agriculture, medicine and military.

5. *Additional clothing*

Inside clothing: Should be in white or pale in colour, with tie for gentlemen and ladies may wear a scarf.

Trousers: Gentlemen in dark colour trousers; ladies may wear dark trousers or a plain skirt.

Shoes: Should be dark in colour.

Appendix C: Specification of Academic Dress of Xiamen University ²⁹

厦门大学学位服标准规范

In accordance with the ‘Notice Regarding Recommendations on Using Academic Dress’ issued by the Degree Office of the Academic Degrees Committee of the State Council Office [1994], No. 22 (10 May 1994), to set a standard for the academic dress in congregation for our university, taking into account of the characteristics of the university, the specification of the academic dress of Xiamen University is as follows:

1. *Types of academic dress*

The types of academic dress include those for president, supervisor, doctoral degree, master’s degree and bachelor’s degree.

2. *Parts of academic dress and specification*

Academic dress has four parts: cap, tassel, gown and hood.

A. Cap

For cap, it is of a standard size: 25 cm x 25 cm

B. Tassel

The total length is 40 cm and the length of the tassel is 20 cm

C. Gown

There are four sizes: 185 cm and above, 175–185 cm, 165–175 cm, and 155–165 cm.

At the left-hand side of the first button in the major colour of the gown the yellow emblem (size is 6.5 cm x 6.5 cm) of the university is embroidered.

The ‘Great Wall’ pattern is embroidered on the cuff of the sleeve.

Black Chinese-style good luck buttons (如意扣³⁰) are used on the front of the gown.

[An example in pink is seen in Fig. 9.]

D. Hood

It is in the form of triangular cowl. For the hood, the longest side is 80 cm and the shortest side is 30 cm. The Chinese ethnic pattern shall be used.

3. *Occasions for using academic dress*

Academic dress is allowed to be used only by degree holders, those pursuing degrees, leaders of the university, supervisor in the degree defence, and during the degree-awarding ceremony, honorary degree awarding ceremony, and congregation.

4. *Categories of academic gown*

There are five categories of academic dress: president, supervisor, doctoral degree, master’s degree, bachelor’s degree. Although the president and supervisor share the same gown, the major difference lies in the hood, which is gold for the president. For a supervisor, he/she

²⁹ The translation into English was provided by the author.

³⁰ An example of the Good Luck button is taken from Taobao as shown in Fig. 9, p. 75. At <<https://world.taobao.com/item/25154008320.htm?spm=a312a.7728556.201601086188259.4.J7nPUS&scm=1007.12679.24488.25154008320>> [retrieved 1 Aug. 2016].

Type	Cap	Tassel	Gown	Hood
President	Black	Yellow	Red, black trim	Golden
Supervisor	Black	Yellow	Red, black trim	} { In the specialities of Arts, Science, Engineering, and Medicine, the colours are pink, grey, yellow, and white
Doctor	Black	Red	Black, red trim	
Master	Black	Deep blue	Blue, deep blue trim	
Bachelor	Black	Black	Black	

wears the hood reflecting the speciality as the graduates do. The bachelor's gown is also introduced in this document.

5. Dress code

(i) When wearing academic caps, the lace-up opening of the skull is placed at the back of the head and the top of the hat should be parallel to the ground.

(ii) The tassel hangs from the top of the cap over the edge.

Before a degree has been granted, the tassel hangs on the front right-hand side in the mid-point of the side of the cap. In congregation, after the granting of the degree, the chairman of the degree committee (or head of College, University and Institute) will move the tassel from the front right to the front left-hand side in the mid-point and allow it to hang naturally.

(iii) The gown should fit the body naturally and there shall not be other clothing on top of the gown. Clothing worn underneath should be in white or pale in colour, with a tie for gentlemen and ladies may wear a scarf. Gentlemen wear dark coloured trousers, ladies in dark trousers or in a plain skirt. Shoes should be dark in colour.

(iv) The hood is worn outside the gown, its neckband draped over the shoulder. The loop of the hood is attached to the top button of the academic dress. The cowl hangs down the back.