

Graduations 2024 (December): Central theme

READY FOR THE FUTURE

This year's theme is about graduates manifesting and **creating the future they desire – because they are ready to do so**. The speeches should motivate the audience to be ambitious, live boldly, set goals (both short-term and long-term) and then go after them... To make daring and disruptive decisions every day, and live life in a way that consistently works towards those decisions. It's a mindset the graduating class has been trained to embrace: to go after what they want and to be resilient in the face of setbacks.

Beyond the individual level, this theme can cover bigger social topics, too. How can we make decisions every day that contribute to **building a better future**? Remind the audience that they have the traits and skills today, to make a difference tomorrow. No matter their degree or chosen career path, these individuals are ready to **create lasting change**, and we wholeheartedly believe in their ability to do so. By being **open-minded, inclusive, and adaptable leaders** that have been trained in a diverse university with an emphasis on sustainability, they are perfectly positioned to forge positive impact.

So, what specific topics can you cover?

- Advice for setting goals and achieving them (on both a small and large scale)
- Advice or stories about adversity in your own life and what you plan to do to overcome adversity and accomplish your goals in the future
- Inspirational personal or professional anecdotes (but always with a takeaway or conclusion that is future-facing)
- Motivational anecdotes about others (case studies)
- Motivational lines to hype them up about creating a brighter future
- Reminding graduates that they are fully prepared to face the future, because they have the skills, traits, and mentality to do so (adaptability, resilience, innovation, leadership, open-mindedness....)
- You could have grads imagine themselves in 10, 20, 30, 40 years and ask them what they envision themselves doing, being, achieving, etc.
- Any topic that is generally future-forward and inspirational!