

# Graduation Speech Guide for Students

## IE Business School

### **Core themes: The Next Best You. Extraordinary. Ready for the Future.**

Your graduation speech is more than a recap of achievements. It's a reflection of who you've become and who you are continuing to become. At IE, the journey has been about igniting the next best version of yourself together in an extraordinary community of doers, creators, disruptors, and changemakers. But extraordinary here does not mean perfection. It means growth, resilience, courage, and the decision to raise your own standard. That is what makes you ready for the future: to be the next best you and go out in the world and foster positive change.

### **Core ideas you can weave in:**

- **Personal transformation:** Show how your mindset evolved. What did you believe at the beginning that you see differently now? What responsibility do you take today that you may not have taken before?
- **Growth through challenge:** Speak honestly about discomfort, uncertainty, pressure, or setbacks. Share a specific moment or short anecdote that illustrates how you navigated adversity and what it taught you. Growth becomes powerful when it is concrete.
- **Community & collaboration:** Acknowledge the people who shaped your experience. Highlight how diverse perspectives challenged your thinking or accelerated your development. Extraordinary outcomes are built collectively.
- **Purpose & impact:** Move beyond personal ambition. Reflect on how you intend to use your knowledge responsibly. Connect business, leadership, innovation, or sustainability to a broader contribution. Show that impact starts within and expands outward.
- **Extraordinary as a daily practice:** Define extraordinary in your own experience. Frame it as a choice: choosing growth over comfort, integrity over shortcuts, courage over hesitation. ([Our Purpose / Manifesto](#))

### **Practical guidelines for a strong speech**

- Include at least one personal or professional anecdote, but ensure it has a forward-looking takeaway.
- Offer practical insight on setting goals, both short-term and long-term - and pursuing them with intention.
- Share a story of adversity during your journey and how you plan to approach future challenges with resilience.

- Invite your classmates to imagine themselves 10, 20, or 30 years from now. What are they building? Who are they becoming? How are they fostering positive change?
- Reinforce that you are already equipped with adaptability, innovation, leadership, and open-mindedness.

Balance reflection with ambition. Celebrate how far you've come, but also make it clear that this moment is a launchpad, not a conclusion.

An extraordinary future will demand bold thinking, responsible action, and continuous reinvention. And this class has prepared for exactly that!