

ACADEMIC  
ROBES OF DISTINCTION

*birch's*  
*Sewn in Distinction*  
SINCE 1860

MADE IN SOUTH AFRICA

With a strong heritage of 150 years, the Birch's name is sewn into the history of South Africa's most distinguished fraternities. Having started as importers of gowns originally, we developed a factory in 1940 as specialist robe makers, designing and manufacturing robes for leading church, academic and political figures and their institutions.

The Birch's slogan '*Sewn in Distinction*', represents our promise to our customers; our mantra of assurance in our quality craftsmanship and attentive service. With this, we would like to extend our service to you in supplying your educational institution with its unique gown, hood and mortarboards. We also offer additional customisation options to match exact technical and aesthetic requirements. With Birch's, you are assured of meticulous attention to detail, skilful fabric handling and timeous delivery without compromising on the quality we are known for.

As the largest manufacturer of academic attire in Southern Africa, we look forward to supplying your institution.

Yours in Distinction.

Two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is 'Chris Mowbray' and the second is 'Nick Mowbray'. They are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chris & Nick Mowbray  
Directors

# ACADEMIC ROBES

TOP OF THE CLASS

As the largest manufacturer of academic attire in Southern Africa, our robes, hoods and mortarboards are worn with distinction and dignity, gracing the hallways of numerous schools, colleges and universities in South Africa, as well as neighbouring African countries.





## OUR HERITAGE

SEWN IN DISTINCTION

Over the past eight decades, the Birch's Robe Factory in Grahamstown, South Africa, has robed many great Africans. It is with the rich heritage of our family-owned and run business, renowned for quality service and attention to detail along with generations of dedicated craftsmen, that Birch's robes have earned the reputation in the fraternities they supply - one that is synonymous with quality and distinction.



# THE FACTORY

GRAHAMSTOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

With over 200 staff members, we are the third largest employer in Grahamstown, one of South Africa's oldest and most loved frontier cities. It is from here that generations of skilled craftsmen and women have designed and meticulously worked fabric into robes that are internationally revered.

The factory carries, as stock items, an extremely broad range of fabrics, ribbons, linings and trimmings, all especially suited to academic dress. Consistency of colour accuracy is guaranteed, as is the ability to repeat fabrics and colours in years to come.





# OUR ROBES


WHAT THEY ARE MADE OF

Hand-tailored to the highest standards, our robes are made from a choice of Polyester Cashmere or Texturised Polyester. The robes are finished with bespoke trim and detailing which hangs superbly, surpassing any expectations.

- » *Polyester Cashmere / Texturised Polyester*
- » *Made to measure (Bespoke)*
- » *Dry-cleanable*
- » *Locally and globally sourced fabrics*
- » *Designed, woven and made in South Africa*







# ACADEMIC ROBES

& GRADUATION SERVICE

Allow us to introduce our collection of academic attire. From University Council to Faculty Robes our products are fully guaranteed and customers may place orders with the confidence that meticulous care will be taken to produce the finest handmade garments.





## DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AND FACULTY ROBES



From design to delivery, the Birch's team is committed to creating collections of council robes and graduation attire made to the highest standards, representing the distinguished leadership of each institution and their esteemed graduates. We realise that graduation is a special occasion, one that is unique. Whether hiring or purchasing graduation robes, faculty hoods or mortarboards, our aim is to make robes that represent the accomplishments of the wearer. The ability to capture the unique identity and spirit of each institution, consistency in colour and quality in every one of our robes, is what sets Birch's apart.







## EXPERIENCE AND CAPACITY

As the largest manufacturer of academic attire in Southern Africa, we assure you of meticulous attention to detail and timeous delivery without compromising the quality we are known for.

The 2900sqm factory and facilities allow us to plan and manage production around specific customer requirements and minimum orders. From sampling to final delivery, Birch's allows you complete confidence in our quality.



# OUR CUSTOMERS

## INSTITUTIONS WE MANUFACTURE FOR

Our robes are worn with distinction and dignity at numerous schools, colleges and universities. From graduation attire through to Hierarchy regalia, Birch's supply numerous institutions across South Africa and many neighbouring African countries. Whether you choose to purchase or hire your graduation attire, you can be assured of Birch's quality and craftsmanship.

Below are a few of our customers, depicting the unique distinction between each institution's graduation attire.



NELSON MANDELA  
UNIVERSITY

NMU  
e: nmugradqueries@birchs.co.za  
t: 041 585 8594



Central University of Technology  
CPUT

CPUT  
e: cput@birchs.co.za  
t: 046 622 7010



RHODES UNIVERSITY  
1828

Rhodes  
e: rhodes@birchs.co.za  
t: 046 622 7010



WSU

Walter Sisulu  
e: wsu@birchs.co.za  
t: 046 622 7010



CUT

CUT  
e: cut@birchs.co.za  
t: 046 622 7010



University of Fort Hare  
1828

Fort Hare  
e: forthare@birchs.co.za  
t: 046 622 7010

# GRADUATIONS

## OUR PROCESS AND SYSTEMS

Dedicated teams from Birch's are fully equipped to manage each graduation ceremony. The team consists of a leader, cashier and staff to handle the student lists and their bookings electronically. Additionally we offer employment opportunities to students from the university who assist us in distributing the academic dress. These students are fully trained before each graduation to ensure accurate academic attire is received. At Birch's we assure quality from production right through to the service received.





## WHY INVEST IN A BIRCH'S ROBE?

- » Hand-crafted quality of distinction
- » Superior customisation alternatives
- » Proudly locally manufactured by skilled craftsmen and women
- » Consistent, high-quality solutions via a global and local sourcing system
- » Revered in many corners of the globe

## THE BIRCH'S OFFERING

### MUNICIPAL ATTIRE

- » The Mayor's Robe
- » The Mayor's Gloves
- » The Mayor's Hat

### CLERICAL ATTIRE

- » Pulpit Robes, Choir Gowns, Baptismal Gowns, Vestocks, Clerical Shirts and Vests, Verger's Gowns, Surplices for the Clergy, Cassocks, Capes, Cloaks, Chorister's Cassocks, Surplices, Albs, Clerical wear for Bishops, Gothic and Romanian Vestments, Copes and Stoles
- » Pulpit Falls are also available, as well as Coffin Palls
- » Mitres, Birettas and Scull Caps

### ACADEMIC ATTIRE

- » Graduation, Academic, Diploma and Ceremonial
- » Academic Hoods, Diploma Collars, Stoles and Scarves
- » Mortarboards, Velvet Bonnets and Hardcrown Mortarboards

### LEGAL ATTIRE

- » Magistrate's Robes
- » Advocate's / Barrister's / Attorney's Robes
- » Judge's Robes

Please contact us for any of the above services.



## ADDITIONAL SERVICES

To make your purchasing experience more convenient, kindly note the following is available upon request:

- » On-site measurements for individuals or large groups. Self-measurement forms available on request
- » Custom Vestment or Robe design
- » Fabric swatches
- » Academic, Clerical, Legal and Municipal catalogues

## POSTAGE / TRANSPORT COSTS

Transport costs are not included in listed prices and charges for packing, postage, freight and insurance will be an additional cost. Unless otherwise instructed, orders will be dispatched by the safest, quickest and most economical means.

## SPECIAL ORDERS

Goods made to special order are not returnable. The illustrations in this brochure feature a small range of items in both traditional and modern style, which can be tailor-made in our factory to your specifications. Should you require something different to what we show in this catalogue, we offer a special design service at no extra cost. Simply let us know what you have in mind in terms of design or theme, the colour and type of fabric favoured and we will design to your specific requirements.

Should you wish to receive more specific information regarding any of our products, please do not hesitate to contact us.

*Sewn in Distinction*  
SINCE 1860





***birch's***  
*Sewn in Distinction*  
SINCE 1860

[www.robles.co.za](http://www.robles.co.za) / [www.birchs.co.za](http://www.birchs.co.za)

T. 046 622 2509 14 Froude Street, Grahamstown, 6139, South Africa

---

Colours in this catalogue are shown only as a rough guide.