

# Durham Beamer Theme

## User Manual

Suhail Rizwan

February 23, 2026

### Contents

|          |  |          |
|----------|--|----------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Introduction</b>  | <b>2</b> |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Installation</b>  | <b>2</b> |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Compilation Engine (LuaLaTeX Requirement)</b>                     | <b>3</b> |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Basic Usage</b>   | <b>3</b> |
| <b>5</b> | <b>Core Commands</b>   | <b>4</b> |
| 5.1      | <code>\maketitle</code> . . . . .                                    | 4        |
| 5.2      | <code>\makeoutline</code> . . . . .                                  | 4        |
| 5.3      | <code>\makereferences</code> . . . . .                               | 4        |
| 5.4      | <code>\makethankyou</code> . . . . .                                 | 5        |
| <b>6</b> | <b>Theme Color Customization</b>                                     | <b>5</b> |
| <b>7</b> | <b>Theme Modes: Accessibility, Plain, and Invert</b>                 | <b>5</b> |
| 7.1      | 1. Accessibility Mode (High-Contrast Palette, Same Layout) . . . . . | 6        |
| 7.2      | 2. Plain Mode (Minimal Layout) . . . . .                             | 6        |
| 7.3      | 3. Plain + Invert (Dark Minimal Mode) . . . . .                      | 6        |
| <b>8</b> | <b>References and Bibliography</b>                                   | <b>7</b> |
| 8.1      | Using <code>\makereferences</code> . . . . .                         | 7        |
| <b>9</b> | <b>Conclusion</b>  | <b>7</b> |

# 1 Introduction

The **Durham Beamer Theme** is a minimalist, structured, and accessibility-aware presentation theme built from scratch. It is designed around the philosophy of:

- Clear structural navigation
- Calm visual hierarchy
- Cognitive restraint
- High contrast accessibility support
- API-stable user commands

The theme separates:

- Visual design (theme layer)
- Presentation content (your slides)

Users interact with a small, stable, and clearly defined set of commands.

## 2 Installation

The Durham theme is distributed via **CTAN** and is included in **TeX Live**. Users may install it automatically or manually.

### Option 1: Automatic Installation (Recommended)

If you are using TeX Live (or MiKTeX with package manager), the theme can be installed directly via your package manager.

Then simply load it in your presentation:

```
\documentclass{beamer}
\usetheme{durham}
```

No manual file copying is required.

### Option 2: Download from CTAN

Download the official package archive (.zip) from CTAN.

The archive contains:

- `beamerthemedurham.sty`
- Documentation
- Example files

### Local Installation (Project-Level)

Place the file:

```
beamerthemedurham.sty
```

in the same directory as your `.tex` presentation file.

Then use:

```
\usetheme{durham}
```

## TDS Installation (Advanced)

For system-wide installation, place the file in your local TeX tree:

```
tex/latex/durham/
```

Then refresh the TeX filename database (e.g., `texhash`).

## Overleaf Users

Upload `beamerthemedurham.sty` into your project directory, or rely on TeX Live if the theme is already available.

Then use:

```
\usetheme{durham}
```

## 3 Compilation Engine (LuaLaTeX Requirement)

The Durham Beamer Theme is designed to be compiled with:

- **LuaLaTeX** (recommended and expected)
- XeLaTeX (generally compatible)

The theme uses professional font settings and modern font packages. For consistent typography and correct font rendering, compile your presentation using **LuaLaTeX**.

Compilation with pdfLaTeX may lead to missing fonts or unexpected font substitutions and is not officially supported.

## 4 Basic Usage

Minimal working example:

```
\documentclass{beamer}
\usetheme{durham}

\title{My Presentation}
\author{Author Name}
\date{\today}

\begin{document}

\maketitle
\makeoutline

\section{Introduction}
\begin{frame}{Slide Title}
Content
\end{frame}

\makethankyou{Thank You!}{Questions • Feedback • Collaboration}
\makereferences

\end{document}
```

## 5 Core Commands

The theme provides four primary page commands.

### 5.1 `\maketitle`

Standard Beamer title page, styled automatically.

### 5.2 `\makeoutline`

Creates the Outline (Table of Contents) slide.

Default usage:

```
\makeoutline
```

Custom title:

```
\makeoutline[Plan de la présentation]
```

Features:

- Top 20% colored strap
- Title inside strap (auto wrapping)
- Bullet-based TOC (no numbering)
- Math-safe section handling

### 5.3 `\makereferences`

Creates a dedicated References slide using the theme’s built-in layout.

Usage:

```
\makereferences
```

This command:

- Automatically generates a slide titled “References”
- Uses consistent Durham typography and spacing
- Preserves structural alignment with the rest of the deck
- Works with BibTeX or BibLaTeX workflows

Example with BibTeX:

```
\bibliographystyle{apalike}  
\bibliography{references}  
\makereferences
```

Example with biblatex:

```
\printbibliography  
\makereferences
```

The theme does not override citation styles — it controls layout only.

## 5.4 `\makethankyou`

Creates the final slide with two customizable lines.

Usage:

```
\makethankyou{Thank You!}{Questions • Feedback • Collaboration}
```

First argument:

- Large primary line

Second argument:

- Subtitle line under separator rule

## 6 Theme Color Customization

The theme uses a central color variable:

```
Theme_Color
```

Default:

```
#68236D
```

Override:

```
\definecolor{Theme_Color}{HTML}{1F4E79}  
\usetheme{durham}
```

All structural elements update automatically:

- Headline
- Outline strap
- Section bullets
- References page
- Thank you page
- Progress indicators

## 7 Theme Modes: Accessibility, Plain, and Invert

Durham provides optional theme modes that modify contrast and layout behavior. These modes are enabled when loading the theme via `\usetheme`.

The three supported configurations are:

- `accessibility`
- `plain`
- `plain,invert`

## 7.1 1. Accessibility Mode (High-Contrast Palette, Same Layout)

Enable:

```
\usetheme[accessibility]{durham}
```

Accessibility mode keeps the Durham layout unchanged, but switches the theme into a strict high-contrast black/white design.

It:

- Forces `Theme_Color` to **black**.
- Sets the theme’s structural elements (headline/footline accents, rules, progress marks, etc.) to use black/white contrast.
- Preserves the standard Durham layout (headline, footline, progress indicator, section pages, outline page).

Accessibility mode may be combined with `plain`:

```
\usetheme[accessibility,plain]{durham}
```

This produces a minimal layout with the same high-contrast palette.

Note: In accessibility mode, any user-defined `Theme_Color` is overridden to ensure reliable contrast.

## 7.2 2. Plain Mode (Minimal Layout)

Enable:

```
\usetheme[plain]{durham}
```

Plain mode removes structural navigation elements to maximize usable slide space:

- Headline is removed.
- Footline is removed.
- The vertical progress indicator (attached to the footline) is not shown.

Plain mode affects layout only — it does not change the color palette by itself.

## 7.3 3. Plain + Invert (Dark Minimal Mode)

Enable:

```
\usetheme[plain,invert]{durham}
```

This configuration produces a dark minimal layout:

- Background becomes black.
- Text becomes white.
- Structural accents adjust for legibility on a dark canvas.
- The deck remains in the minimal (plain) layout without headline or footline.

**Note:** Your bibliography toolchain (BibTeX/Biber) depends on the citation package you choose. The Durham theme remains neutral and only provides the `\makereferences` slide wrapper.

## 8 References and Bibliography

### 8.1 Using `\makereferences`

The theme provides a dedicated references slide command that does not count toward slide numbering or progress indicators.

- Choose your preferred citation package in the preamble (e.g., `natbib` or `biblatex`).
- Place `\makereferences{<bibfile>}` near the end of the document.

Example with BibTeX:

```
\usepackage{natbib}
\bibliographystyle{apalike}
...
\makereferences{references} % uses references.bib
```

The references slide will automatically break across multiple frames if needed.

## 9 Conclusion

The Durham theme is designed for:

- Academic lectures
- Research seminars
- Conferences
- Professional presentations

It prioritizes structure, clarity, accessibility, and long-term maintainability.