

THE 5 LEVELS OF BUSINESS DRESS

with Michaela Betchley

Every industry has a dress code, often determined by the products and services it provides. Some are explicitly communicated through a dress code policy or uniform. Others are implicit.

What's expected and acceptable in business has evolved over time, however, and there are no longer hard and fast rules. Context, therefore, is everything. If you're unsure which dress code is right for your industry and your job role, use this 5 level dress code as a guide. As a very simple rule of thumb, the more traditional the industry (e.g. finance & law) the more traditional and formal the dress code. The more creative the industry (e.g. advertising & entertainment) the more flexible and casual the dress code.

LEVEL 1 BOARDROOM

The highest level of any governing body (private or public). If you are a member of, work for, or about to meet, the board.



- Long sleeved white or pastel shirts or blouses, solid colour or fine pin stripe
- High quality accessories
- Dark and classic trousers, skirts or dress suits, two-piece (skirts and dresses no shorter than two fingers above the knee)
- Sheer or nude hosiery
- Black or nude closed toe shoes, thin to medium sole



- Long sleeved white or pastel shirts, solid colour or fine pin stripe
- Traditional coloured ties, small print
- High quality accessories
- Dark grey or navy suits, solid or pin stripe, two or three-piece
- Black Oxford or Derby shoes, thin soles

LEVEL 2 BUSINESS

Traditional offices and leadership roles. Client meetings, presentations and media appearances.



- Long sleeved shirts or blouses, bolder colours and patterns
- Two-piece suits or a tailored dress, bolder colours and patterns
- High quality accessories
- Nude or sheer hosiery
- Closed-toe shoes in a variety of colours



- Long sleeved shirts, bolder colours, stronger patterns
- Bolder colours and patterned ties
- High quality accessories
- Two-piece suits, mid-dark colours
- Brown, black, navy or burgundy Oxford or Derby shoes, thin soles

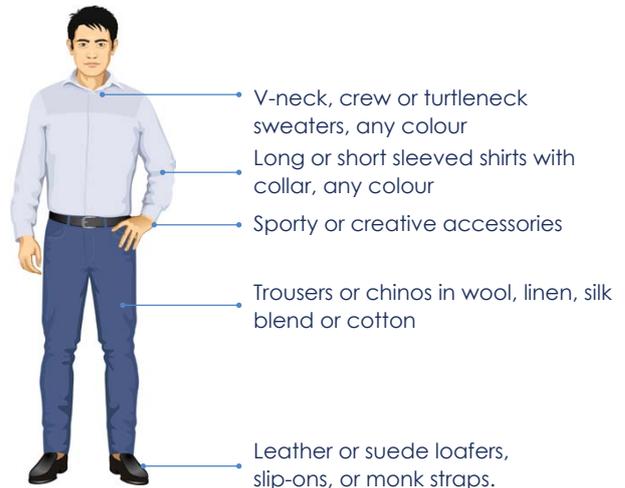
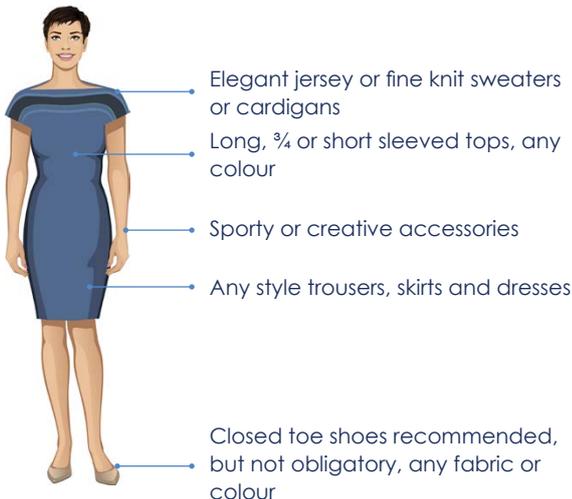
LEVEL 3 EXECUTIVE CASUAL

Relaxed, traditional offices and leadership/aspiring leadership roles. Internal corporate meetings, conferences, training events, tradeshow and sporting events.



LEVEL 4 MAINSTREAM CASUAL

Working for self or from home, company off-site retreats, casual training events. Everything still in great shape.



LEVEL 5 BASELINE CASUAL

The most casual attire and relaxed environments. Unlikely to bare any relevance for executives, leaders/aspiring leaders and corporate environments.

