Dress it

Interview Attire

Wearing appropriate attire is part of the job, graduate/professional school or scholarship interview. It is an opportunity to make a positive first impression. Attire can help make or break the position or opportunity you’ve worked so hard to secure. The following is a set of best practices to help ensure you dress and present yourself appropriately and professionally at your next interview.

Hair & Grooming

Keep it simple. Conservative hairstyles are preferred; avoid thick gels or hair products. Facial hair should be groomed.

Make-up, Nail polish, & Fragrance

Use make-up sparingly. Nail polish and make-up colors should be kept conservative. No perfume; use deodorant no scent. American norms of personal hygiene are anticipated and appreciated in U.S. culture.

Jewelry & Accessories

Jewelry should be kept at a minimum. Necklaces should sit high on the neckline. Avoid gaudy jewelry. A watch is appropriate for an interview.

Coats, Jackets, & Suits

Coordinated coat/jacket with pant or knee-length skirt is recommended; suits are a good option; coat/jacket should remain on during the interview.

Tops, Shirts, & Ties

White, blue, or light-colored blouse, shell or collared dress-shirts are recommended. Avoid low necklines. Ties should coordinate with shirt and suit; Tie-tip should reach belt buckle.

Color, Print & Material

Darker colors such as blue, grey, or charcoal are recommended. Use a material that is comfortable but NOT form-fitting.

Bags & Portfolios

Carry a portfolio for note-keeping, preparing questions in advance, and to keep extra copies of your résumé; bags are a matter of preference. Bring a pen for the occasion.

Shoes, Socks & Hosiery

Closed-toe dress-shoes are recommended; low-heel shoes are preferred; dark-colored socks only. Avoid white-colored socks.