

Dressed for Success

When it comes to your presentation, hair and dress; assume that an employer, and most of their customers, will be more conservative than you. Dress in a way that makes them feel comfortable. The art is to find the balance between feeling comfortable and looking good – between expressing your own individuality and impressing your employer! Remember, you are representing yourself and your school.

Get your facts straight

When you meet with your employer to fill out your Ministerial Order No. 23 Form, one of the things you should ask is about the workplace dress code. Make a note of what they say, and have a look at what other employees are wearing.

Cover and Conceal

Regardless of fashion, clothes like shorts, short skirts, bare midriffs, and revealing cleavage are likely to make employers or their customers feel uncomfortable. If you want to impress, pull your pants up and your collars down.

Ditch the Denim

Even if they cost a lot of money, jeans, denim jackets, and cargo pants send the wrong message to employers. They might decide you look too casual and don't care about the placement.

Moderate Makeup

Light makeup and a natural look for female's works best for most employers. Males, it's probably best to avoid any makeup.

Lose the "Bling"

Don't go overboard with the jewellery. Not only does too much look bad, in a lot of workplaces it is a Health & Safety hazard. Remove all but one ring, one set of earrings and a chain.

Be prepared and positive!

Be 10 – 15 minutes early on your first day. Organise and iron your clothes a couple of days before your placement starts. Ask questions and listen to any feedback on your appearance your employer might give you.

Limit visible piercing and body art

Numerous earrings, tattoos or body piercing may make an individual statement, but you need to remove or cover them if you are serious about impressing your employer.

Harness your hair

If you have long hair, keep it tied back neatly. If you have short hair, make sure it has been cut recently. Remember to save extreme styles and colours for the weekend.

Shopping on a shoe-string

You may need to expand your wardrobe for work. Op-shops, discount stores and markets offer outfits at bargain prices. Lack of finances shouldn't stop you from making a good impression.

Shower and deodorant

Placement day is shower day! Males, shave if you need to! Aim for a neat and tidy appearance – clean and ironed clothes, tidy hair, and clean cut fingernails. Antiperspirant/deodorant is in, overpowering perfume or aftershave is out!

Get a second opinion

Ask a trusted adult for their opinion on your appearance; they will likely be closer in age to your employer. You may not agree but their opinion should help you impress your employer.

Ditch the Thongs

Clean, polished, closed-toe shoes will satisfy most employers. Remember always consider Occupational Health & Safety and protect your feet at work.

Put some time and thought into your appearance. Your employer will appreciate it and you are worth the effort!

YouthNow acknowledges SELLEN/LCP's source material. -