

OSFA POLICY ON DRESS CODE

This policy sets out the National School of Healthcare Science (NSHCS) dress code for the OSFA.

Key aspects of the NSHCS policy

The NSHCS considers that the OSFA is a real clinical experience and trainees should ensure that they dress in line with the expectations set out below.

- All trainees will be expected to dress presentably and in a way appropriate to their future professional role during the OSFA.
- Due regard will be paid to religious or cultural matters with regard to dress, consistent with the requirement of safe care.
- All trainees should be dressed to ensure compliance with cross infection control procedures.
- Arms should be 'bare below the elbows' to ensure adequate hand hygiene at all times.
- The School reserves the right not to admit to the OSFA a trainee who fails to conform to this dress code.

Purpose

The dress code is necessary in order to:

- Provide a professional image
- Minimise the risk of transmission of infection
- Minimise the opportunity of injury to the trainee, and all other OSFA attendees such as actors and administration staff
- Have regard to Health and Safety considerations
- Enable trainees to perform effectively
- Ensure adequate communication levels.

The NSHCS considers the way trainees dress and their appearance is of significant importance in portraying a professional image to all, whether an actor-patient, venue staff or assessors.

The NSHCS recognises and values the diversity of cultures, religions and disabilities of its trainees and will take a sensitive approach when this affects dress requirements. However there are circumstances when there are genuine occupational reasons as to why the wearing of certain articles and/or clothing is not permissible, and priority will be given to health and safety, security and infection control.

The policy incorporates the principles and guidelines within the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, Religious or Belief Regulations 2003 and Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and also the rights of individuals to express themselves freely (although recognising that this must be consistent with maintaining a professional image, and is consistent with safe health care).

General

- Clothing should be worn in a clean and presentable fashion.
- Jewellery must be kept to a minimum.
- Necklaces may be worn but should be covered up.
- Wrist watches must not be worn.
- Bracelets should be removed although those of religious significance may be retained if they do not conflict with wearing protective gloves.
- Head scarves may be worn for religious purposes but must not be allowed to hang down and they must be secured or removed.
- Hair should be neat and tidy at all times and arranged off the face and collar with suitable hair ornamentation. This includes head scarves for religious purposes.
- Long hair must be tied back so as not to drop forward.
- Where facial coverings are worn, these must be removed prior to the start of the OSFA.
- Nail varnish and false nails are not permitted. Nails should be sufficiently short to ensure safe actor-patient contact and use of equipment.
- Footwear must be appropriate for working in a clinical environment i.e. flat or small heeled shoes with enclosed toes only should be worn.

Examples of non-acceptable clothing

The following items of clothing are examples of unacceptable clothing, either on the grounds of Health and Safety, Infection Control or for lack of professional image:

- Denim jeans or skirts (all colours and styles), track suits, casual sports t-shirts, leisure shorts, combat trousers, sweat shirts, baseball caps or hats.
- Overly tight or revealing clothes, including mini-skirts, tops revealing the midriff and leggings.
- Skirts that are sufficiently long that they touch the ground when walking are not acceptable on safety and hygiene grounds.
- Clothes bearing inappropriate slogans.