



guide

FOR PROFESSIONAL APPEARANCE

SUMMER 2026

your image speaks a thousand words

When entering any professional context, your appearance, attitude and behavior can play a key role in the way people perceive you. Depending on the situation, how you interact with the world and how you present yourself can even give you a competitive advantage.

At EHL, we've established a certain number of standards around professional appearance for our students, staff and wider community members. These guidelines are based on the three values which constitute the basis of our ethos:

Excellence, Learning, and Family

Three simple words that drive our behavior and resonate across everything we do.



Learning real-world applications on campus.

Our Guide for Professional Appearance is a fundamental element of our institution. It is above all a teaching instrument that aims to support the development of soft skills and knowhow by applying the standards of a professional environment on campus.

Learning is also a social and experiential process at EHL, where learning goals are defined in- and outside of the classroom. The Guide for Professional Appearance is an extracurricular learning activity that enables a tangible demonstration and practice of life skills.

The goal is for you to understand how to present yourself according to the expectations inherent to the hospitality and services sectors. You will learn how to apply those recommendations but also how to adapt according to various contexts. While doing so, you are invited to self-reflect on the most appropriate manner of presentation.

As future managers, you are given the opportunity to experience a professional attire that complies with the industry requirements, while still being able to express your personal identity.



Being the best version of yourself implies staying true to yourself.

The present guidelines are a framework, a common and precise standard for the entire EHL community. However, these standards also allow for the expression of personality, individual identity and the choice of style – which uniforms do not allow for. Within the framework defined by our industry, each individual can therefore develop themselves and grow.

THE 3 PILLARS OF EHL'S PROFESSIONAL APPEARANCE ARE:

- 1 I am aware of the **impact of the first impression.**
- 2 I **adapt my appearance**, attitude, and behavior to the person(s) I am interacting with.
- 3 My behavior, attitude and appearance **fit with** the activity, the environment, and the events.

DIVERSITY, INCLUSION & BELONGING

EHL is committed to welcoming diversity. These guidelines have been written specifically to be inclusive of gender, cultural and religious diversities. The context for this document is an evolutive process and it will be subject to review periodically to ensure continued alignment with our values and environment.

daily professional attire

You are expected to comply with the EHL Professional Appearance Guidelines on all campuses during working days, throughout the whole year, within all public locations and academic buildings (**Lausanne and Singapore from 7am to 7pm, Passugg 7am to 5:30pm**). These rules are also valid whenever you visit the campuses outside of normal academic or practical activities (internship, group work, research, holiday, etc.).

In Lausanne and Passugg, during your practical arts workshops, you may also circulate throughout campus in your uniform – spotless and professional. In Lausanne, the wearing of Professional Attire is enforced and expected in all main premises, with exceptions for:

- The Agora (excluding the Sakura Canopy),
- The circulation zone between the Route de Cojonex entrance and the Main Reception in the Agora,
- Residences 1, 2 & 3 (excluding the 3rd floor and offices).

In the following pages we've outlined to what extent specific clothing items and accessories are considered aligned with EHL Values. Those particularities might differ depending on the context, the cultural requirements of the location, or temperature. Items that are considered "aligned with Values" can be combined freely. In case of doubt, the Head of Student Affairs will provide guidance and confirmation.

Note: During practical teaching periods, where hygiene and safety rules are essential and unavoidable, common sense will be required and some specific pieces of jewelry or attires might need to be adapted or removed.



general



ALIGNED WITH EHL VALUES

- ✓ 2- or 3-piece tailored suit (skirt, pants or dress with a sleeved blazer, which must be worn at all times), of a professional type. Upper and lower garments are not required to be coordinated.
- ✓ Regional, cultural business suit aligned with daily professional attire (e.g., Bavarian and Tang jackets, saris, etc.).
- ✓ Jewelry and earrings can bring a personal touch to your style, complete your outfit and emphasize your personality. However, they must remain discreet.
- ✓ Face must remain visible at all times unless for a medical or sanitary requirement.

NOT ALIGNED WITH VALUES

- ✗ Disproportionate casual prints or design (e.g., tropical shirts).
- ✗ Sports clothes.
- ✗ Casual T-shirts or other informal collarless tops.
- ✗ Fabrics such as leather, jeans and any type of loungewear.
- ✗ Offensive and inappropriate messages on items of clothing.

head & neck



ALIGNED WITH EHL VALUES

- ✓ Make-up must be discreet.
- ✓ Hair should be groomed, well-kept and should not cover the face.
- ✓ Discreet visible tattoos not exceeding the size of a credit card.
- ✓ Piercings and other face-jewelry (nose, tongue, lips, eyebrows) must be discreet.
- ✓ Beards, goatees and moustaches are acceptable. The maximum acceptable length of a beard is 1 cm.

NOT ALIGNED WITH VALUES

- ✗ Excessive visible tattoos.
- ✗ Unnatural hair color (blue, pink).
- ✗ No hats, caps or beanies of any sort indoors.

chest, arms & hands



ALIGNED WITH EHL VALUES

- ✓ Blouses with or without buttons, polo shirts with collars, turtlenecks, and quarter-zip sweaters worn with a shirt.
- ✓ Button-down business shirts with short or long sleeves. When worn with a tie, collars must always be closed and the tie well-adjusted, when worn without a tie, only the top collar button can remain undone.
- ✓ Hands must be clean, well looked after and nails should be maintained at an appropriate length. Colored nail polish is accepted provided it stays in classic tones.
- ✓ Shoulders must be covered, with a minimum strap width of 8.5 cm (the size of the EHL card length wise).

NOT ALIGNED WITH VALUES

- ✗ Cardigans or sweaters in wool, cotton or other, hoodies, jackets, ponchos and scarves **as a replacement for a blazer.**
- ✗ A turtleneck sweater or pullover worn without a jacket, or over the shoulders.
- ✗ Rolled up sleeves.
- ✗ Crop tops, bare shoulders, thin straps or sleeveless tops.
- ✗ Transparent shirts, blouses and tops.
- ✗ Tops with low opening either in front or back.
- ✗ Winter coats, puffers, or other outdoor jackets are not permitted as a replacement for a blazer or waistcoat. They may not be worn inside public areas and must be carried by hand.
- ✗ Noticeable underwear.

legs



ALIGNED WITH EHL VALUES

- ✓ Formal/Classic suit pants whose length is closer to the ankle than the knee.
- ✓ The length of skirts and dresses should be just above the knee or just above the ankle.

NOT ALIGNED WITH VALUES

- ✗ Shorts, miniskirts, and skirts and dresses with slits above the knee.
- ✗ Skin-tight pants, skirts or dresses (pencil, sheath), leggings.
- ✗ Pants, skirts, and dresses with bright or large printed patterns (e.g., Hawaiian patterns).
- ✗ Transparent dresses, skirts, or pants (lace or similar).
- ✗ Bright and/or largely patterned tights, fishnet tights or stockings.
- ✗ Noticeable underwear.

feet



ALIGNED WITH EHL VALUES

- ✓ Shoes must be classic and closed. Colored shoes are accepted.
- ✓ Shoes must be polished or well maintained.
- ✓ City boots and ankle boots.
- ✓ Long boots are permitted if worn under trousers, or with long dresses or long skirts.

NOT ALIGNED WITH VALUES

- ✗ Shoes with heels over 8.5 cm.
- ✗ Platform shoes, wedge heels, plateau sole and combat boots (Doc Martens or similar).
- ✗ **Winter, furry boots or booties.**
- ✗ Sports shoes, sneakers*, beach shoes or sandals (flip-flops, slippers, rope-soled sandals, espadrilles, open toes shoes).

* In case of injury, discreet sneakers are allowed once medical exemption has been validated by Student Affairs department.

about religious symbols

Religious freedom or freedom of belief is a fundamental right: the right to choose and practice one's religion. Wearing religious symbols on the EHL campuses is a sign of inclusiveness, and for this reason the following religious items are authorized:

- 1 **Jewelry of reasonable size such as medals, pendants, necklaces and bracelets (e.g., Christian medals, cross, crescent moon, star of David, bindi, etc.).**
- 2 **Headwear such as kippahs, turbans (e.g., Dastar, Dumalla, Kenyan or UK style, Nok Pagg), headscarves (Hijab, Shayla).**

Any other religious symbol may be considered and must be raised to EHL's Spiritual Counselor:

counselling@ehl.ch

Note:

- As a private educational group, EHL has the autonomy to define its own internal regulations. This guide is in line with the current local legal frameworks with regards to acceptance of certain items of clothing.

WARM WEATHER

warm weather

These guidelines are activated from

1st June → 31st August

for Lausanne and Passugg Campuses,

& all year round

on Singapore Campus.





ALIGNED WITH EHL VALUES

- ✓ Jackets, blazers and waist coats are no longer compulsory.
- ✓ Open shoes with heel fastening.
- ✓ Shoulders must remain covered with a minimum strap width of 8.5 cm (EHL card length wise).

NOT ALIGNED WITH VALUES

- ✗ Similar to daily professional attire.
- ✗ Sport t-shirts without collars.
- ✗ Open shoes without heel fastening (slides, flip-flops, Crocs, clogs, espadrilles, etc.).