

DIPLOMA AWARD CEREMONY DRESS CODE

The dress code for a dignified daytime academic event such as the Diploma Award Ceremony is **dark suit**.

Men

The term 'dark suit' has traditionally signified either a black or dark blue suit with pinstripes or without a pattern, with or without a vest. Tuxedos are out of the question! The cut of the suit can vary: double- or single-breasted, with two or three buttons, etc. Dark suit has also traditionally implied a white shirt and handkerchief and a grey tie. A modest pattern on the tie is acceptable. Shoes should be tidy, black, and thin-soled. Socks can be either black or dark. Patterns are acceptable. Good general posture is preferred.

Naturally, other matching, dark-toned jacket and trouser combinations are also possible (violet, green, brown, etc.). The jacket and trousers may be of different material. The colour of the shirt and tie may also vary. If one deviates from the traditional suit colours, the shoes may also be something other than black; heavy work shoes or ski boots should be avoided, however. The socks can also vary as long as they match the suit. The only forbidden sock colour is white – white socks belong to sports and leisurewear. In the end, the only important dress code is that your outfit is neat and gives a groomed impression.

Women

For women, the term 'dark suit' is very flexible and there are several acceptable ways to dress. In fact, 'dark suit' should be interpreted to mean the same as 'lounge suit' in this daytime context, meaning women have the opportunity to *wear something else besides dark colours*. The term 'dark suit' stems from the way men should dress – invitations traditionally only specify the dress code for men, leaving women room to adapt accordingly. In Finland women often prefer all black. This is not considered a *faux pas*. After all, black has become the traditional festive colour in Nordic academia. Acceptable options for women are jacket suit, skirt combined with a presentable blouse, an elegant trouser suit, a traditional gown, etc. Because the Diploma Award Ceremony is a daytime event, the length of the skirt is not pre-determined. It can be anything from quite short to long. A full-length skirt is by no means the requirement. However, if you are considering wearing a fashionable full-length dress, then feel free to do so! It is not improper in any way. A long skirt IS *an absolute requirement* for conferment ceremonies and black tie events held in the evening. In the daytime a woman may also wear a delicate hat and gloves without ruffling any feathers! All one can say about shoes is that they should match the wearer's dress in both colour and style. The shoe can be either low- or high-heeled, or anything in between. Jewellery and scarves can be worn as one chooses.

General Remarks

Remember! The purpose of clothing is to create a ceremonious and festive atmosphere for the event. Dressing up for formal events is by no means done just for the sake of dressing up. The whole experience that is the event consists of small things, and clothing is one of the factors that make the event memorable. Dressing well is also considerate toward others. If you do not subscribe to the idea of formal events, then you do not have to attend them. If you are concerned about the cost of clothes, you should bear in mind that clothes can also be borrowed, and have been throughout the ages. The most important thing you can wear is a positive attitude. A formal event does NOT mean stiff and deadly serious. Graceful, joyous, considerate, smiling and generally proper behaviour can make even a nude person presentable! Remember to be punctual, greet, chitchat politely, and thank one another! Be proud and humble about your achievements.

(Written by M. H. Korhonen)