

Document title	KMMS Dress Code for Students
Version	2
Effective Date	September 2023
Date for review	Academic year 2025/26
Developing committee/board	Undergraduate Programme Board
Approved by/date	Universities Joint Quality Committee/June 2020 (original version) UGPB / 2023 (revised version)

Dress Code for KMMS Students

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1. Introduction

1.1. The KMMS dress code has been designed to ensure:

- Patients feel confident they are being seen by a team of professionals
- All patients and visitors feel their beliefs are respected. Age group, ethnic origin, religion can influence patients' views on dress, and it is important not to cause unintended offence or upset to anyone
- Infection and safety risks are minimised.

1.2. Medicine is a vocational course, and therefore a dress-code is warranted.

1.3. The scope of this document refers to:

- The clinical environment (i.e., placements)
- Specialist teaching spaces
- Interactions with patients/simulated patients
- Simulation suites (on or off campus)
- Clinical assessments (OSCEs).

In the remainder of this document these will be collectively known as the “clinical environment”, but this is not limited to NHS sites, and includes campus facilities. Faculty will endeavour to guide you during modules.

2. Presentation and appearance

2.1. Working in a clinical environment and meeting patients will bring you into contact with many different people. This includes interactions which occur in, or simulate, the clinical environment (i.e., placement) but also skills training, the OSCEs, and Case Based Discussions.

2.2. The following rules apply in all clinical placements and simulation activities:

- You will be issued with a photo identification badge indicating that you are a medical student, which you should always wear when you are in the clinical environment.
- You should always dress smartly when in a clinical environment and when meeting patients.

- Dress must be tidy, clean, and presentable.
- You should also ensure that you maintain high standards of cleanliness and personal hygiene and that you do not wear strong smelling perfumes or aftershaves, nor have an offensive body odour.
- Jewellery should be kept to a minimum. Dangling earrings or dangling facial piercing are not appropriate and should be removed.
- Standard clinical practice is to be “bare below the elbows”. Therefore, you should not wear a wristwatch, bracelets, or rings. An exception is a single, plain, wedding band and in OSCEs when students may wear a non-smart watch.
- Neck or ankle chains should not be visible.
- Hair below the collar should be tied or secured back. As should hair that is obscuring the face that makes eye contact difficult.
- Nails must be kept short and clean. False nails and nail varnish must not be worn.

3. Clothing

3.1. As a rule, students should wear shirts/blouses and should wear smart trousers or skirt, or a smart dress. Please note that due to the risk of infection, ties or neck scarves should not be worn.

- Short skirts and dresses are unacceptable.
- Shorts are unacceptable.
- Trousers should be tailored and smart.
- Vest-style or ‘strappy’ tops, low cut tops or cropped tops, T shirts or polo shirts are unacceptable.
- Clothing can include small/simple brand logos. But clothing should not include any text on the clothing.
- Hats/caps/”beanies” of any kind are not permitted, except for religious headwear.

3.2. All KMMS students should follow Trust policy with regard to infection control and working ‘bare below the elbow’. During clinical work short sleeves are preferred but, if necessary, long sleeves may be rolled up neatly.

3.3. Surgical scrubs or other provided attire must only be worn in the appropriate clinical environment and when authorised.

3.4. Health Education England and the British Medical Association note the importance of verbal and non-verbal communication and recommend that your face must be fully visible for the purposes of recognition and clinical communication with patients and staff. Head dresses worn as part of religious observance must not cover the face.

4. Footwear

4.1. Shoes should be neat, clean, and practical. Shoes should enclose the whole foot and be plain to facilitate cleaning. Open toe shoes or sandals are not permitted.

- Comfortable footwear is important, but trainers are not acceptable.
- Theatre-style clogs must not be worn outside of the critical care setting.
- Open shoes are not permitted in any clinical or simulation setting.

5. Other Considerations

5.1. KMMS respects equality and diversity within its student body. If you feel that you may have difficulty complying with this code, please contact KMMS Student Life and Wellbeing.

5.2. Where sessions require clothing to facilitate the learning of content (e.g., living anatomy / clinical skills) then the expectations described in the pre-session materials should be followed.

5.3. The clinical colleagues you are working with, or member of their staff, is entitled to ask you to leave if they do not consider your appearance to be acceptable and this will be recorded as an absence.

5.4. If you are in any doubt what you should wear in a given clinical setting, it is best to ask the doctor in charge for advice.