

WHAT SUCCESSFUL WOMEN WEAR TO WORK

Compiled by
Maybelle Morgan

Her wardrobe's as organised as her diary; the perfect jacket hangs on her chair. But how do these game-changing women get dressed every day?

CHLOE MACINTOSH
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'When I walk into a meeting, I want to reflect the brand'

For work I have a uniform: straight jeans, brogues, a masculine shirt and blazer. I have busy mornings - waking up between 5am and 6am - so I usually take 10 minutes to get ready, doing my make-up later, on the go.

The process of selecting clothes in the morning can be chaotic, but it suits me. I rarely prepare - instead, I love the creative process of rediscovering your wardrobe. To make my life easier, I do rely on some staple items. I have a few brands that I know fit me well: Givenchy for jeans, jackets from Joseph, plus French brands such as Sandro and Maje for simple separates, and Robert

[@CHLOEMACINTOSH](#)

THE UNIFORM DRESSER

'I dress to show authority but remain feminine'



Velvet shoes, £425, Jimmy Choo. Fumei shirt, jeans and belt, all Chloe's own. Above: Silk-crepe jacket, £360, Joseph



Leather and cotton-canvas bag, £1,595, Burberry Prorsum



Silk top, £209, Sandro

Clergerie for shoes. I'm not a brilliant shopper, so I buy most of my pieces online and stock up on essentials.

In the office, I err towards the underdressed, as we have a young team who don't spend a lot of money on fashion. But I do feel better when I make an effort, as when I walk into a meeting and talk about the brand, people need to see a reflection of the aesthetic I'm talking about in me.

I'm often the only woman in a meeting with 20 men, so I want to show authority but remain feminine. I usually opt for fitted high-waisted suits with a twist, like jacquard detailing or a coloured cuff. My fail-safe is a Burberry piece that looks like the iconic Beatles Sgt. Pepper's jackets, with an unmistakable red underlay.



Clockwise from right: Ralph Lauren dress and belt, both Elena's own. Silk-chiffon skirt, £269, Emma Cook. Chanel shoes, Elena's own



'I keep shoes and a mirror by the front door'



THE ECLECTICIST

Cotton shirt, £195, A.P.C. Scarf, Elena's own. Right: Viscose top, £185, Sandro



'My clothes are organised by length on a rail to make decisions effortless'

ELENA CORCHERO
FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR
OF SUSTAINABLE DESIGN
COMPANY LOST VALUES

Chanel Le Vernis Nail Colour in Frenzy, £18



Leather and Plexiglas shoes, £200, Miista



Silver-embellished leather bag, £1,390, Givenchy by Riccardo Tisci



For work, I love injecting a hint of colour into my outfits and tend to mix bright vintage pieces with accessories I've designed myself, like this highly reflective wool scarf for cyclists (below).

Warm yellow is great for meetings: it makes you look approachable, so people are more relaxed and receptive. I don't plan my outfits in advance, as I prefer choosing on the day; however, my clothes are organised by length on a rail in my bedroom. It goes from shorts and skirts



Denim jeans, £90, Levi's
'It's helpful to have reliable favourite pieces'

to dresses, up to coats - the visual openness makes my decisions effortless. I'm 5ft 3in, so I wear heels for confidence. With a good pair (I've recently discovered Miista), I can forget I'm wearing them.

All my season-appropriate shoes, as well as my full-length mirror, are in a closet by my front door, which makes adding finishing touches a lot more convenient. It's also helpful to have reliable favourites - G-Star Raw skinny jeans and a fitted Banana Republic shirt work, as I commute in on a bike.

That also means I carry a hair doughnut with me, so I can style my hair in seconds if the helmet's made it too flat.

As I'm a designer, I use my hands constantly to showcase products, so I keep them groomed. I do my nails at the weekend as I have no time during the week; my favourite shade at the moment is a dove-grey one by Chanel.

Style is key for making first impressions, but it's important not to overdo it - I don't want people to think I spend more time shopping and grooming than working. >



[@LOSTVALUES](#)

THE INVESTMENT DRESSER



Suede bag, £1,250, Lanvin

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LINDSAY NUTTALL
CHIEF DIGITAL OFFICER
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'On Sundays, I put together outfits for the week ahead'



Denim and faux-leather skirt, £455, Christopher Kane at Browns

Top, Christopher Kane skirt, shoes and jewellery, all Lindsay's own. Below: Mac Lipstick in Ruby Woo, £15.50



'A red Mac lipstick works wonders'

Certain corporate environments dictate strict dress codes, but I've always been lucky to have had jobs where I can be myself. At the moment I like Christopher Kane, and Proenza Schouler is great for adding colour and print. Alexander Wang's jersey pieces are staples and, for shoes, Gianvito Rossi heels are nicely cut. I don't mind if things are expensive, as long as I know I can wear them season after season - like my Alexander Wang jacket with leather sleeves, which I've had for nine years.

At home, I have an entire room for my wardrobe: all the clothes are kept on fitted racks, with the pieces I wear most often at the front. For convenience and organisation, I keep all my shoes in their original boxes with the labels facing out. Every couple of months, I'll

revive my wardrobe by rooting around at the back, putting different pieces together. On Sunday nights I put together a few of looks, so I always have some outfits ready for the working week ahead. I know what I like, so I buy key pieces quickly each new season, and then restrain myself until the sales for the rest of the year.

If I want to add a finishing touch to an outfit, a red Mac lipstick works wonders: Ruby Woo is my favourite. I mix and match quirky pieces of jewellery, like lightning-bolt earrings from Colette in Paris. But I never overload. Looking like you aren't trying too hard speaks volumes about your confidence.

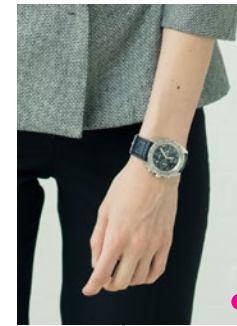


Trousers and shoes, both Lindsay's own

Above: Céline top, and trousers, both Lindsay's own



Clockwise from above: Wool-mix jacket, £710, Alexander Wang at Matches. Leather boots, £420, Robert Clergerie. Nylon skirt, £175, L.K.Bennett



'I'm extremely organised, with three separate storage areas'

Workwear can be tough for women - we're always trying not to clash with our company's corporate culture, or stand out too much. We live in a world where appearances count, and people judge you based on how you present yourself. Most of the time I'm working in a lab, so I have to wear scrubs or a lab coat. Safety and comfort are my top priorities there, so I opt for fitted pieces. I don't have a lot of time to shop, so I buy things online from French Connection, Banana Republic and Armani, looking for a structured cut and graphic prints, and essentials like suits.

When I have business meetings, I like to wear white, so it's usually very easy to combine separates: I have a go-to knee-length Versace skirt with leather and vinyl detailing, as well as a tailored Armani jacket.

I'm extremely organised in the mornings, with three separate storage areas for my clothes. My

Cotton top, £1,050, Fendi. Cotton-mix trousers, £155, L.K.Bennett. Stainless steel and leather watch, £275, Thomas Sabo. Shoes, Eleni's own



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'I want to feel empowered and elegant'

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bedroom is where I keep all my jeans and casual wear; my suits are kept in my office next door; and I have a third room with all of my shoes, blouses and skirts. Everything is colour-coordinated: white at the front, then black, and colourful pieces in another pile, making getting ready in the morning a lot more convenient. I want to feel empowered and elegant, so I would never wear something too extravagant, but I do wear heels most of the time, as well as minimalist Venyx World jewellery. I don't want to hide my femininity. >



PVC bag, £395, Bao Bao Issey Miyake

Photography: 3 Objectives, Stephanie Sian Smith.



Suede shoes, £440, Manolo Blahnik

Silk-chiffon top, £26, American Apparel



Satin-crepe top, £630, Proenza Schouler at Browns

THE MINIMALIST



My industry is relaxed, but in my role my wardrobe must be smart while echoing the creativity of the environment.

I support young designers who have a presence in the art world - the jewellery I'm wearing is from Belmacz, designed by the gallerist Julia Muggenburg.

I also travel a huge amount, so I need items that can withstand the journey - a techno-fabric Jil Sander dress is a current go-to, as it doesn't crumple. Beautiful separates get me through the working week, so my wardrobe is organised by outfits. My trousers are laid out with silk shirts, and dresses are hung up with a blazer and a belt looped over the hanger. For work trips, I pack by outfit, storing the corresponding pieces in polythene bags on a hanger so they can go straight out of my suitcase and into the

THE CREATIVE



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Wool-mix coat, £395, A.P.C. Right: Jill Stuart dress and Belmacz jewellery, all Jo's own

White gold and sapphire earrings, £5,641, Shamballa



JO STELLA-SAWICKA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF FRIEZE ART FAIR

Gold and diamond ring, £8,200, Belmacz



'I support young designers with a presence in the art world'



Gold and diamond ring, £3,591, Shamballa

Jonathan Saunders dress, Jo's own

Leather bag, £390, Avril Gau



@JOSTELLAJO

'I spend my days walking around art fairs and galleries, so loafers and brogues are ideal'



Cotton-mix shirt, £215, Wood Wood



Leather shoes, £430, Nicholas Kirkwood at Browns

hotel wardrobe. I spend my days walking around art fairs and galleries, so heels are impossible - loafers and brogues work for me. They need to be comfortable, but still express that I work in a creative industry - I love Nicholas Kirkwood shoes. I'm also an A.P.C. obsessive. The cut makes the difference between corporate and stylish, and jackets are my ultimate weakness and outfit finisher. Every season, I buy a new one - at the moment my petrol-blue one by Isabel Marant is indispensable.

Although it only takes me 15 minutes to get ready, I never know what my day will be like, so I always have a jacket slung over my chair and a pair of heels under the desk.

Styling: Molly Haylor; Photography: Stephanie Stan Smith. Still-life photography: 3 Objectives. Hair and make-up: Theresa Davies at Carol Hayes Management using Nars and Bumble and bumble. For shopping details, see Address Book.



ADINA EZEKIEL
BARRISTER AT 6KBW COLLEGE HILL

THE SUIT

Hugo Boss jacket and dress, and earrings, all Adina's own



'The cut of the jacket is the deciding factor'

Leather shoes, £655, Gianvito Rossi



Left: Wool jacket, £995, Stella McCartney. Wool trousers, £239, Marc Cain



@6KBW

Below: Whistles shoes and Wolford tights, both Adina's own



'I always wear fishnets - that's my little court rebellion'

Polyester dress, £89, Cos



Leather bag, £430, Michael Michael Kors. Below: Lancôme Définicils High Definition Mascara, £22.50



'I never go without mascara'



When you're in court, your colour palette is limited to black, navy and grey. I always dress formally: every season I buy suits from L.K.Bennett, Hobbs, Jaeger and Paddy Campbell, a brand stocked at the tailor and robemaker Ede & Ravenscroft on London's Chancery Lane. Because I'm 5ft 3in, it's hard to find a suit that will flatter my shape, so when I see one that fits, I'll buy it and wear it to death. The cut of the jacket is ultimately the deciding factor for me, as it needs to feel comfortable and smart; I tend to opt for sharper, shorter-hemmed three-button suits. I never wear the same suit two days in a row - I have two separate clothes rails, one reserved strictly for court and the other with more informal items, which makes the selection process a lot easier.

If I'm just working in chambers, I dress far more casually - sometimes jeans but usually a shirt dress from Cos. It usually takes me about 20 minutes to get ready in the morning: I'll wear a tinted moisturiser, and never go without mascara, my current one is Lancôme Définicils. When you're swamped by a gown and a wig, it's nice to wear heels to give you more of a presence. Court dress also dictates that you should wear proper tights. I always wear Wolford fishnets, though - that's my little rebellion. ●