

Dress Standards:

Ladies and Gentlemen should dress sensibly and avoid clothing that is suggestive and inappropriate given the normal constraints imposed upon Chinese society. Tailored trousers and slacks are best, as are sensible length skirts and dresses. Blouses should cover the shoulder. Shirts should be collared, preferably tailored. Jeans are not acceptable for teaching and shoes should be newish joggers or conventional shoes - no sandals or worn-out joggers.

Very, very short hair, although acceptable in most western countries, is not seen as acceptable for female teachers in Chinese schools, conversely the same applies to men sporting very long hair, facial jewelry, exposed tattoos.

Dress and Apparel:

Long gone are the days of traditional Chinese dress. This is reserved largely for celebrations, tourists and other special events. While bringing some Chinese guests on a tour of American schools, we could only chuckle when one child asked what people wore in China. One of the visitors dressed in casual attire told the class they were looking at the type of clothes worn every day. He also went on to say that jeans were as common as anywhere else in the world.

In the typical wedding in China, the bride will wear a white bridal gown the same as is worn in weddings in the western world.

Business attire is similar to that worn anywhere in the industrialized world for a given trade. Business suits for marketing sales and banking, while dockers and shirts without ties are appropriate for factory professionals all the way to the factory manager. Laborers, however, will usually wear a uniform.

Color preference: You will notice a difference in colors. The Chinese have a preference for browns, beige (or tan) and yellows. Black is a very popular color, especially in women's dress and apparel. Bright red is also a popular color for special events, holidays and ceremonial events. Grays are also common. School children's uniforms are brightly colored with white, blue and greens being common.

A tourist may find few people wear shorts, especially the men.

The ruggedness and dust in many parts of the country should encourage you to select more casual and durable wear. Because of this reason, you may opt to bring some of the older clothing in your wardrobe.

Miss Li's Handy "What to Wear" Tip

Chinese teachers are expected to set the standard for students in things like ethics, morals and appearance. Sometimes administration officials will make **indirect** comments about "dress" so that you do not lose face. Although the teaching profession is amongst the most conservative sectors of Chinese society, as a foreigner you will be afforded a lot of latitude in most things. Look around you and use common sense.

