

Workwear: uniforms to help you dress the part

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Before specialist outlets like Long Tall Sally came along, tall women were really hard pressed to find fashionable work clothes that fitted them and looked good – and, before the internet, it was even harder to source such items. It would often be a case of spending hours on end traipsing around malls and shopping centres, seeking out the “tall” sections (if one existed) or using specialist tailors, which isn’t always the cheapest of options. Although it’s now significantly easier to find office and casual wear for tall women, it seems that these issues can still arise for tall women who are required to wear a specific uniform to work. For those who work in places requiring specialist uniform: hospitals, hotels and medical laboratories for example, finding clothes which fit can be a bit of a nightmare. If your job involves a lot of on-the-spot decision making in a fast-paced environment, it’s essential that you are comfortable in your clothes. Sleeve and trouser lengths that are too short, areas around the thighs and underarms that dig in and are too tight, and armholes that are just too small are going to make for a long and sweaty day. For many occupations, especially in the medical fields, wearing comfortable, loose-fitting clothing is a health and safety issue – but unfortunately trendy fashion stores can’t really cater for such specific needs as lab coats and nurse’s uniforms. Don’t despair, however: some organisations do outsource their uniforms to various suppliers who cater for a variety of shapes and sizes. NHS nurses’ and doctors’ workwear for example can be purchased quite easily online at pretty reasonable prices – try NHS Uniforms for a variety of hooded tops, fleece jackets, sweatshirts, cardigans and polo shirts, which can be customised to include your name, department and ward name, as well as the official NHS logo. In the US, there are some great sites for ladies working in the medical or aviation sector such as Uniform Corner and Aviator Scrubs, which stock uniforms of every size, for every type of hospital role, including medical roles within the army. And of course, although we don’t stock specialist uniforms here at Long Tall Sally, we do have a huge variety of fashionable workwear. Our suit section has been created with the professional tall businesswoman in mind, and includes all the vital ingredients for a chic office ensemble, including blazers, jackets, skirts, blouses and smart trousers. So, if you land yourself a job which requires a specialist uniform, don’t assume you won’t find clothes to fit – do some research, have a browse and ask around. You could be dressing the part in no time! Share your views in the comments. And don’t forget to check out the rest of our A to Z of Tall



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