

Tips for getting great portrait photos



Before you get in front of the camera, [have a chat with the photographer](#) about what you are hoping to get out of the session. I always offer a cup of tea or coffee and a chat first, to help ease my client into the session and make sure I know what results they are after. It can be very unnerving being photographed in a studio environment, and you will get much better and more natural looking photos if you are feeling relaxed.

Think about the [image you want to portray](#) – a suit will give a different impression to a casual jumper. I always suggest bringing a variety of outfits to the shoot so you can have a selection of looks and experiment to see what look works best for you.

[However there are some things that work better than others when choosing the outfits you bring:](#)

- Avoid fussy patterns on shirts or blouses, and big logos on T-shirts as they are distracting (unless it is part of the image you want)
- Avoid high necked tops – you don't want to look like a boiled egg in a cup!
- A V-neck or open blouse/shirt gives a more flattering line and elongates your neck
- A statement piece of jewellery can add interest
- Choose outfits that you are comfortable in
- Feel free to bring accessories like hats or scarves to add some extra interest

Ladies (and guys) – [keep your makeup natural, and go for a matte look](#) – shiny skin does not look so great under bright lights! Do bring your make up with you so you can touch it up or add more if you feel you need to.

Do [consider what you want to use your photos for](#), and share these thoughts with your photographer. This will help to decide how they pose you and how they edit the shots afterwards. For example:

- Corporate/business profile shots – e.g. to use on LinkedIn would be a more formal look
- Social media – e.g. Facebook, Twitter or even dating sites - could be something more fun or unusual to help you stand out
- A portrait as a gift for yourself or a loved one – you might want something that looks more dramatic or luxurious



[Above all, remember to have fun and enjoy being the centre of attention!](#)