

Top 10 careers by Yr. 11

No.7 Beauty Therapy and related careers

The work

- **Beauty therapists** carry out a wide range of treatments on the face and body.
- **Nail technicians** specialise in nail care, nail enhancements and nail art.
- **Spa therapists** offer a range of wet and heat treatments at spas.
- **Make-up artists** may work in TV, film and fashion photography, for example.
- **Image consultants** advise individuals about the colours and styles that suit them.
- **Cosmetic scientists** research and develop new beauty products.

Education and training

Most entrants to beauty start by taking a full-time beauty therapy course at a college of further education. Private colleges also offer courses. Available higher education courses include foundation degrees, HNC/Ds and degrees.

Intermediate and Advanced Apprenticeships are available in beauty therapy, nail services and spa therapy (Advanced Apprenticeship in Wales only). In Wales you may be able to take a Higher Apprenticeship in advanced beauty practices.

What it takes

To work in beauty therapy you need:

- empathy and tact
- a pleasant personality, with a confident and friendly manner
- a well-turned-out appearance and high standards of personal hygiene
- to be good at explaining treatments etc
- for many jobs, to be fairly fit and active
- to maintain confidentiality
- to be prepared for close physical contact with strangers.

Prospects

With experience, you could consider becoming self-employed, offering a home- or mobile-treatment service, or running your own salon. It is also possible to find work at spas, on cruise ships etc. In larger beauty salons and spas, it may be possible to progress to a supervisory or management-level position.

With considerable experience, it's possible to move into teaching beauty therapy.

Pay

There are no fixed wage rates for beauty therapists. As a guide, newly qualified entrants may start at about £14,000, increasing with experience and responsibility to around £21,000. Owners/managers of large, successful salons will earn much more. Pay may be boosted by tips and/or commission for selling beauty products.

For further information

Habia - tel: 0845 230 6080. Habia sets the standards for nationally recognised qualifications. The website carries information on training and careers:
www.habia.org

The Guild of Professional Beauty Therapists - tel: 01332 224830. A trade body for the beauty sector. Operates various registers including the Register of Professional Beauty Therapists and the Register of Professional Nail Technicians. You can search for vacancies and courses in your area at:
www.beautyguild.com

Federation of Holistic Therapists (FHT) - tel: 023 8062 4350.
www.fht.org.uk

National Association of Screen Make-up Artists and Hairdressers (NASMAH) - tel: 01932 660935. Find careers advice on:
www.nasmah.co.uk

For information on courses, consult provider websites and prospectuses, or search through:
www.direct.gov.uk/nationalcareersservice
www.careerswales.com
www.ucas.com

Private schools and colleges across the country may advertise in health and beauty magazines. You could also search online or use online directories such as www.yell.com

Special Effects Make-up Artist - from *The Coolest Jobs on the Planet* series, published by Raintree.

How to Become A Beauty Therapist: The Insider's Guide - published by How2Become Ltd.

Apart from listing vacancies, the following recruitment website also provides careers information:
www.hairandbeautyjobs.com