

# BEAUTY, NAILS & SPA CAREERS:

## Beauty Therapist

### WHERE TO STUDY?

You can study with a private training provider or at a college of further education. Colleges often have a September start date while private training providers will have year-round start times. Additionally, you could go through the route of an apprenticeship which are often recruited throughout the year.



Colleges start advertising and enrolling early, so we'd encourage you to speak with someone at the college to get all your questions answered. You can often find your answers by visiting their website for more details. Not sure what colleges in your area have the courses you want to study? You can find colleges that offer iTEC and VTCT qualifications through our websites or this link: [www.vtct.org.uk/find-a-centre](http://www.vtct.org.uk/find-a-centre) or [www.itecworld.co.uk/find-a-centre](http://www.itecworld.co.uk/find-a-centre)

### STUDY FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME?

You can study full-time or part-time. Some colleges and training providers may offer part-time/evening courses that will allow you to balance your studies with your other commitments. This is something we recommend investigating to see what is offered in your local area.



### WHERE CAN I WORK?

You can find work as a Beauty Therapist in many different locations as our iTEC and VTCT qualifications offer international mobility. You could work in any of the following:

- Beauty salons,
- Health spas,
- Cruise ships,
- Self-employment,
- Education route (teacher/assessor)



### WHAT KIND OF COURSES SHOULD YOU TAKE?

You can choose a shorter course such as an award or certificate to see if you like beauty therapy. As you continue your studies, you could do a diploma such as the NVQ Level 2 Diploma in Beauty Therapy General. This is a qualification that will expose you to several areas within Beauty Therapy so you can determine if you want to specialise in something at Level 3.

You may also choose to do an apprenticeship in Beauty Therapy to gain experience and earn a wage while you learn.

**Level  
2**

For certain jobs in salons, spas or cruise lines they want you to have a Level 3 qualification in Beauty. You can specialise at this level by picking a Level 3 qualification that is based in massage, electrical treatments, make-up, etc. There are over 35 different beauty therapy qualifications (at different levels) and of different sizes on our websites, so there are plenty of options.

**Try and get on a regulated Level 3 Diploma course such as a VTCT Level 3 Diploma in Beauty Therapy Treatments or iTEC Level 3 Diploma in Beauty Therapy Techniques.**

A Diploma will give you all the skills you need to gain employment and will include facials, lash and brow treatments, waxing, manicure, pedicure, make-up as well as other essential skills such as client care and health and safety.

**Level  
3**

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### HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?



Many ask "How long will it take to complete my studies?" For a **Level 2 Beauty Therapy** course at a college, you will be on a Diploma course from about September to the following June. There are usually around 450 study hours involved which means it would be about 12-14 hours a week. If you go to a private training provider this will vary and may be more intensive allowing you to complete faster. If you choose an apprenticeship, you will be working in a salon and earning money whilst you gain your qualification.

For a **General Level 3 Beauty Therapy** course at a college, you will be on a Diploma course usually from September to the following June, but some training providers have a roll on roll off registration throughout the year. On the general qualification there are usually around 540 study hours involved which is roughly 14-15 hours per week. If a specialist subject area such as massage was taken, the hours alter to around 403 (11-12 hpw) or for a make-up qualification to about 353 (9-10 hpw).

### CAN I WORK WHILST I STUDY?

Many students work alongside their studies, but be aware you will have a lot of homework and studying to do as well as the hours you spend in college. We would suggest to never take on more than you can handle. Make the qualification your top priority if you can. It would be best to look for industry related part-time work. You will be able to add it to your C.V. as well as it being an opportunity to learn even more about the industry you want to enter.



### HOW WILL I DRESS ON COURSE?

There will be strict guidelines on salon dress given to you by your college. This is not only to make you look professional, but for health and safety reasons. Your hair must be tied up if long, a salon uniform must be worn, low heeled and closed shoes, no jewellery, nails must be short and polish free, appropriate make-up, etc.



### WHAT EQUIPMENT WILL I NEED?

As a beauty therapist, you will need a kit. The college may supply a kit to use during class time, however, if you are able, it may be beneficial to buy your own so you can practice at home.

Prices vary according to content, but a good quality kit will probably cost over £100. You will also have to buy a salon uniform and this will cost around £50.

