

BEAUTY, NAILS & SPA: Advanced Aesthetics Practitioner

Continuing the conversation about Beauty Therapy careers, let's discuss the role of an Advanced Aesthetics Practitioner.

To become an advanced aesthetics practitioner, you would need to complete a Level 2 and Level 3 beauty therapy qualification which would generally take two years. Once this has been completed, you would choose your Advanced Aesthetics route, and this would take another 3 - 6 months. So, in just two and a half years you could become fully qualified and apply for a job in the industry. It's important to realise that working in the industry whilst completing your training will help you to be more employable, along with furthering your education and experience.

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Already have a Level 3 Beauty Therapy Qualification?

At any point in your career as a beauty therapist, you can enrol on a Level 4 Qualification. Simply choose the technical subject you want to study and find a training provider or college that offers it. Your Level 4 course can run alongside your current job. You can up-skill yourself, and broaden your business, by completing these advanced aesthetics courses.

What kind of courses do you need to take?

Again, remember that doing a recognised Level 2 Beauty Therapy Diploma will give you all the skills you need to gain employment. You would then continue with a Level 3 course that would include massage, facial and body electrotherapy. Once these are completed, you could then work as a fully qualified beauty therapist.

Level 4 Certificates

- Radio Frequency
- Skin Needling
- Skin Peeling
- Ultrasound

Level 5 Certificates

- Advanced Blemish Removal
- Laser Tattoo Removal

Potential earning power:

The average wage for an Advanced Aesthetics practitioner would be around £35-40,000 per annum. As a therapist, you can work with a level 2 qualification. However, salons and spas generally would want you to be trained to a level 3 standard, but you could start earning a salary and gain valuable industry experience just after about a year of studying.



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Paying for your schooling:

Government funding: If you are between the ages of 16 – 19 then you could apply for a bursary from the government to help with education related costs to study at Level 2 and Level 3. If you are over 19, you can apply for an advanced learner loan but you will need to check with your college or training provider to see if the course is eligible. If you take out a loan, you have to pay it back but only when you earn over £25,000. Level 4 courses would generally be paid for by either the company you work for, by yourself or the manufacturing company of the equipment you would be using.

Working: Many students work whilst on their level 2 and 3 beauty therapy courses, but be aware you will need to balance homework and studying with 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 CV as well as it being an opportunity to learn even more about the industry you want to enter.

Equipment costs

For your Level 2 and 3 courses, the centre may supply your kit or you can buy your own. 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.

For your Level 4 and 5 courses, it is often very specialised, and sometimes expensive, equipment that you will be using. Because of this, most often the training provider or college you study with will have the equipment already.

Where to study and what structure to follow?

You can study at either a private training provider or a college of further education. You can also study full-time or part-time. 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 also can be recruited throughout the year.

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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 also go to their website to find out more details. Not sure what schools in your area have the courses you want to study? You can find colleges that offer our qualifications through our websites: www.vtct.org.uk/find-a-centre or www.itecworld.co.uk/find-a-centre.