

BARBERING & HAIRDRESSING CAREERS:

Cruise Ship Hairdresser

WHERE TO STUDY?

You could either undertake an apprenticeship or a full-time course of study at a college of further education or with a private training provider. Your course will help you gain strengths that you can demonstrate in practical areas for a future employer.

Private training providers run courses all year, but further education colleges usually enrol learners at the start of the academic year in September. 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 the training provider's website for more details. Not sure what training providers in your area have the courses you want to study? You can find a training provider that offers iTEC and VTCT qualifications through these links: www.itecworld.co.uk/find-a-centre or www.vtct.org.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.



CAN I WORK WHILST I STUDY?

Many students work alongside their studies, but you should be aware that you will have studying to do outside your normal class hours as well as the time you are in the classroom.

It would be best to look for industry related part-time work so you can add it to your C.V. in addition to learning even more about the industry.



WHAT WILL THE COURSE COVER?

You will likely be expected to do a minimum of 2 years of study. You will do a Level 2 in the first year and Level 3 in the second year. You would need to complete a Level 3 qualification in order to be able to work on a cruise ship as a hairdresser.

You would start with an induction session that would detail the requirements such as dress, associated kits, centre regulations, examination details and an overview of the course content. The course will give you all the information on exactly what you will be doing over the next year so you will feel comfortable starting this journey.

You will also cover Health and Safety rules associated with a salon and the use of tools. You will learn how to prepare a client for a service and learn what the products are used for within the salon. Individuals who work on cruise liners usually undergo a sales training programme as part of their induction.



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WHAT WILL CLASSES BE LIKE?

Class sizes will depend upon the training provider where you study. You may be studying with other learners of different skills or levels of abilities. This can be a great opportunity to learn from your classmates as well as your instructor. Once you learn a specific skill, you may be able to work in a commercial salon on clients.



WHAT EQUIPMENT WILL I NEED?

You will need tools for your trade, and depending upon their quality, the costs can vary. It's good to plan for your start-up costs to be at minimum between £100-£150.

Think of this as an investment in your future career. Buying quality equipment that will last will be important.



WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT ON THE JOB:

Not sure what to expect while working on-board a cruise ship? At minimum, you can expect a lot of travel opportunities. Your first cruise will most likely be eight months long. Some cruise companies will ensure all your living expenses are paid, but you won't necessarily earn a wage. Any cash you get in commission and tips are yours to keep! Make sure you read your contract and are happy with the terms before you take a position.



Depending on your cruise company, you may get some added training on the practices of the ship before heading out to sea. During your time on the cruise ship you'll most likely be doing glamorous hairstyles and beautiful up-dos. You may also be required to take to the stage and do talks and demonstrations to gain clients and to sell various products.

As cruise ship hairdresser, you will typically be happy to speak and engage with everyone you see, whether it's a client in the chair or simply someone passing by the salon.

ADDITIONAL CRITERIA

As well as your qualifications, you will also need a valid passport, clean criminal record and English language proficiency.

Your personality will also determine your suitability. Employers will be looking for confident and outgoing members of staff who are passionate about providing excellent customer service.

