

BEAUTY, NAILS & SPA: Beauty Therapist

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 VTCT qualifications through our website: <https://www.vtct.org.uk/find-a-centre/>.

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How long will it take to complete your studies?

For a Level 2 Beauty Therapy course at a College of Further Education, you will be on a Diploma course from September to the following June. There are usually 450 study hours involved in this programme 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.

A Diploma will give you all the skills you need to gain employment.

For certain positions, most salons, spas and cruise lines will not employ you if you don't have a Level 3 qualification in beauty. You can choose to specialise at this level by picking a Level 3 qualification that is based in massage, electrical treatments or make-up. There are over 30 beauty therapy qualifications of different sizes on each of our websites so there are plenty of options.

What kind of courses do you need to take?

Try and get on a regulated Level 3 Beauty Therapy Diploma course such as an iTEC or VTCT Level 3 Vocational Qualification Diploma in Beauty Therapy General, or Level 3 Diploma in Beauty Therapy or Level 3 Diploma in Beauty Specialist 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.

You can always start with a shorter course like an award or certificate to see if you like beauty therapy. You may also choose to do an apprenticeship in beauty therapy. If, at your interview, the centre does not think that you are ready yet to start with Level 2 courses, they might suggest you start at Level 1 so you have more time to build your skills.



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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 such as clothing, books and transportation. 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. You will repay 9% of any income you earn over £25,000.

Within England, sometimes there are schemes offered by local authorities to help with training to get people back to work but these are rare. With a Level 3 Beauty Therapy course you may be eligible for an advanced learner loan.

Working: Many students work whilst on a beauty therapy course, 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 CV as well as it being an opportunity to learn even more about the industry you want to enter.

If you are looking to work whilst studying, find a job in the industry to improve your CV.

Should you 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 maximize your course load. This is something we recommend investigating to see what is offered in your local area, and at your local college.

Required equipment and approximate costs:

As a beauty therapist, you will need a kit. The centre may supply a kit to use during class time, however, if you are able it is always better 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.

How will I have to dress on the 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, salon wear must be worn, low heeled closed shoes, no jewellery, nails must be short and polish free, appropriate make-up, etc.