



Hair & Beauty

Job Information Sheet

Beauty therapists treat clients' bodies and faces to improve their appearance. Trained professional beauty therapists carry out beauty treatments on most areas of the body. Some treatments are well known, waxing and facials, others less so such as lymphatic massage and non-surgical facelifts.

Hairdressers work with clients of all ages, cutting and styling their hair. They use techniques such as blow-drying, colouring and perming. Some salons specialise in particular styles and clients, for example Afro-Caribbean hairdressing, traditional barber shop services for men or fun funky styles at the fore front of fashion. There are also opportunities in related jobs, such as nail technicians, body artists (or tattooists), make up and skin care consultants and in alternative therapies.

For many trained and experienced workers in beauty and hairdressing it is possible to go it alone and work from home as a freelancer. Others may choose to work for a local salon or go for the pace and glamour of working in the West End, department store or as part of the travel industry.

Are there Jobs for 16-19 year olds?

There are plenty of opportunities for people within this age group to train and work within this industry. You will have to be an excellent communicator, be diplomatic and have the ability to listen. For hairdressing formal qualifications are rarely required and apprenticeships are often available. Apprenticeships are less common in beauty therapy and when they are employers are more likely to ask for good GCSEs or equivalent qualifications.

A College course?

It is possible to achieve National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) in beauty therapy or hairdressing either by attending a full-time college course or completing a salon based apprenticeship.

To enter the NVQ Level 2 course in either hairdressing or beauty therapy you normally need at least GCSE grade Ds or above (some colleges will ask for C or above), an NVQ Level 1 or salon experience. These courses combine classroom study with practical experience. To go onto an NVQ Level 3 course, and learn more advanced techniques, you will normally need to have completed Level 2 course.

There are also courses available for those without good GCSE grades. To enter Level 1 courses in either beauty or hairdressing some colleges will not ask for qualifications, while others will ask for GCSE D-F grades. To work as a hairdresser or beauty therapist you would then need go onto an NVQ 2 course or find a salon based apprenticeship.

Diplomas

The Diploma is a new qualification that combines classroom study with practical experience. Diplomas will be available at Foundation, Higher and Advanced Levels in many colleges and 6th forms and, in some cases, may replace other vocational courses. The Hair & Beauty Diploma will be introduced in some parts of Central London from 2009.

For details on the vast range of education and training courses, including Diplomas, on offer throughout London go to www.mychoicelondon.co.uk

Jobs for 16-19 year olds in hairdressing & beauty

Below is a selection of jobs that could be available to 16-19 year olds living in central London. Further details of these and many other jobs can be found at www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u/.

Beauty Therapist's treat clients' bodies and faces, improving their appearance. They give body massages, apply makeup, give facials, remove unwanted hair. They also give advice on, and sell beauty products. There are opportunities to move into more specialised areas such as holistic therapy, electrology, or cosmetic tattooing.

Nail Technicians perform manicures and pedicures as well as applying nail extensions. They also decorate nails on both the hands and feet. They work in beauty or hairdressing salons, nail salons or nail bars in large department stores, airports and shopping malls. Training may be available in local salons or by a short college course.

Body Artists or Tattooist use electrically-operated needles which inject coloured ink just under the skin. They use this to decorate the skin or for cosmetic purposes. Tattooists have to keep up to date with the latest fashions and must maintain a high standard of hygiene in their parlour. Training will normally be with a local registered tattoo artist and qualifications in art or related subjects can be useful.

Hairdressers or Barbers shampoo, cut, colour, perm, set and dry hair, using a range of products and techniques. They may also take their turn at reception duties, booking appointments, greeting clients & taking payments. Hairdressers may also be required attend ongoing training to keep up to date with current styles & techniques.

This information sheet covers jobs for 16-19 year olds in Central London. It does not cover graduate jobs or jobs that are rare in Central London. For details of the whole range of jobs go to www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u/.

Make up and Skincare consultants are employed by cosmetic companies. Qualified beauty therapists are sometimes preferred, as they have background knowledge, which is an asset when selling makeup and skin ranges within a retail market. Targets are generally high, so experience in sales and working to targets is preferable. Employment and training is normally with manufacturers and retailers of beauty and skincare products.

Alternative/Holistic Therapy includes reflexology, aromatherapy and massage techniques. Holistic therapy looks at treating the person as a whole (mind, body and spirit). For some therapies a university course or professional qualification are needed. For other therapies, such as aromatherapy or massage, it is possible to train part-time while working in a job such as beauty therapy. Many people train in a number of different aspects of holistic to expand their practice.

Many young people are interested in working as a make-up artist in fashion, film or TV. Although some college courses contain an element of make-up artistry, this is a highly competitive area of work and to find work experience is essential.

For those without experience volunteering or working on amateur or college productions might be the first step.

FT2 (www.ft2.org.uk) provides training for those interested in working in film and TV but applicants need NVQ Level 2 in both beauty therapy and hairdressing.

For further information go to www.skillset.org/film/jobs/hair_and_makeup

Live hair & beauty vacancies (on 1st May 2009)

Young people in Central London can search for job and training opportunities at www.lois.uk.net. When this information sheet was published the following vacancies were available:

LOIS Ref	Vacancy	Organisation	Location	Notes
L19001059	Hairdressing Apprentice	Hairdressing Salon	West End	
L19001291	Shampooist	Hairdressing Salon	Knightsbridge	
L19001351	Hairdressing Apprentice	Hairdressing Salon	Tottenham Court Road	
L19001374	Hairdressing Apprentice	Hairdressing Salon	Canary Wharf	
L19001385	Hairdressing Apprentice/Trainee	Hairdressing Salon	Marble Arch	
L19001388	Receptionist	Hairdressing Salon	Baker Street	
L19001389	Trainee Hairdresser (Apprentice)	Hairdressing Salon	Baker Street	
L27001152	Apprentice Hairdresser	Hairdressing Salon	Putney	
L27001153	Apprentice Hairdresser	Hairdressing Salon	Clapham Junction	
L27001531	Salon Cleaner	Afro Hair and Beauty	Peckham	
L27001670	Trainee Hairdresser	Hairdressing Salon	Battersea	
L14	Apprentice Hairdresser	Hairdressing Salon	Highgate Village	
L12000681	Apprentice Hairdresser	Hairdressing Salon	Fulham	
L12001456	Beautician	Hairdressing Salon	Croydon	

To find out more about any of these vacancies either speak to your Personal Adviser or contact the nearest centre listed at the bottom of this page. If you do not live in any of the areas listed below you can find your local Connexions centre at:

www.connexions-direct.com/index.cfm?go=localServices

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships offer training to young people who want to learn while working.

Details of apprenticeship will be listed with Live Vacancies above when they are available.

You can also find information about training and apply directly to some salons, such as www.toniandguy.co.uk or www.vidalsassoon.co.uk.

For further information about apprenticeships offered in beauty therapy and hairdressing visit www.apprenticeships.org.uk.

Other Vacancy Sites

Beauty and Hairdressing employers don't only employ young people. Many will look for people with experience and qualifications. Because employers recruit people of all ages many vacancies will not be on the LOIS site (which is just for young people) but on the sites listed below:

Fuse Jobs www.fusejobs.co.uk	Specialise in entry level jobs in London and aim to provide the gateway to your first job, including advice on applications and CVs.
University of the Arts www.arts.ac.uk/student/careers/1933.htm	This site has extensive links to employment site for Beauty Therapy, Hairdressing, Makeup and Cosmetic Science.
Hair-Recruitment.com www.hair-recruitment.com	This site deals with hairdressing only. There are links to current vacancies as well as learning opportunities.
Jobcentre Plus www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk	The national Jobcentre Plus site has many vacancies within the Beauty and Hairdressing sector. However, many of the vacancies ask for relevant experience. This site also has links to jobs from other sources, such as employment agencies.
Hair and Beauty Jobs.com www.hairandbeautyjobs.com	This site has links to current jobs available within this industry. You will also find links to vacancies with major companies such as Hyatt Regency and Fitness First. Please note that most of these jobs require qualification and relevant experience.