

Exploring Careers Through Technical Routes

Hairdressing



The Industry

The hair industry is a dynamic, creative, glamorous and fast paced industry with many exciting opportunities. Hairdressers use a range of cutting and styling methods to enhance the image, appearance and confidence of their clients.

A hairdresser may work in a salon catering for women and/or men or work in a specialist salon such as African-Caribbean. Working hours can be long as many salons require staff to work six days a week. Some offer later opening hours for business customers and do special events and weddings.

A trainee hairdresser will: meet and greet customers; take their coats; wash towels; replenish stock items; wash a customer's hair; sweep up and generally keep the salon clean and tidy.

National Association of Screen Makeup artists and hairdressers
<http://www.nasmah.co.uk>
Hair and Beauty Industry Authority <https://www.habia.org>
National Hairdressing Federation <https://www.nhf.info/home/>

Skills and Requirements

Both a passion for working with hair and dedication to the profession are essential. You also need:

- A keen sense of style and fashion, keeping up to date with trends
- Creativity to design and interpret hairstyles
- Excellent social, customer service, communication and diplomacy skills together with a good sense of humour
- Knowledge of hairstyles, hair types and colouring with the ability to visualise change
- Enjoy being sociable and work as part of a team
- Enjoy meeting new people and having a conversation
- Enjoy working under pressure as clients may not always have a lot of time or like what you do
- Stamina as you will be on your feet all day
- Understand relevant health and safety laws and procedures
- Appropriate personal presentation including clothing, hair, nails and personal hygiene
- Hard working with a willingness to work flexible hours/days
- Knowledge of data protection of client records.

'There are over 31,000 salons in the UK employing around 180,000 people. A further 100,000 hairdressers are in training. Demand for entrants with the right skills and work attitude remains constant.'

Source: <http://www.inputyouth.co.uk/jobguides/job-hairdresser.html>

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Working and Learning in Hairdressing



Job Roles & Progression

To be successful it is important to continually refresh your skills and learn new techniques. Volunteer, work part time or do work experience in a salon that offers a training programme.

Study Programme

Levels 2 and 3
Hairdressing or Barbering.



Further Study

FdA
Hairdressing Management.
Specialist Hair and Media Make-up.
HND
Hair, Beauty and Make-up Management.
BA (Hons)
Specialist Hair and Media Make-up.



Apprenticeships

Intermediate and Advanced
Hairdressing or Barbering



Career roles

Senior stylist or salon manager.
Trainer or assessor.
Specialise e.g. hair stylist, colour technician or trichologist.
Own your own salon (hairdressing and barbering businesses are the most popular independent start up business).
Become self employed (44% of people working in hairdressing and barbering are self-employed).
Work in film or television.

Calculation including problem solving

Tasks

1. Estimate the total number of foils needing to be cut for highlighting a particular client's hair.
2. Calculate percentage price reductions for each hair stylist to boost business during a quiet week.
3. Mix hair dyes for a customer in the correct proportions based on the stylist's instructions.
4. Cut a client's hair into a bob choosing the correct angle that the scissors make.
5. Research alternative suppliers of a hair shampoo to find the most cost effective one.

Links to GCSE Maths

1. **Number** (whole numbers - addition, multiplication, division; approximation - rounding numbers, estimating calculations).
2. **Number** (whole numbers - subtraction).
Ratio, proportion and rates of change (percentages - decreasing an amount by a percentage).
3. **Ratio, proportion and rates of change** (direct and inverse proportion - calculating amounts using proportions).
Geometry and measure (units of measure).
4. **Geometry and measure** (angles).
5. **Number** (whole numbers - addition, multiplication).

Communication, all forms

Tasks

1. Conduct a customer consultation to carry out a safe colour treatment.
2. Create a salon service menu showing customers the salon opening times, services, stylists and prices.
3. Handle a disgruntled client who has waited 45 minutes because the stylist is running late with her appointments.
4. Write a report for the salon manager on customer feedback over the past month.
5. Talk to a client and explain the benefits of the shampoo you are using to wash their hair.

Links to GCSE English Language

1. **Spoken language** (speaking and listening).
Writing (writing non-fiction – writing a form).
2. **Writing** (writing non-fiction – writing a leaflet; literary techniques – persuasive devices).
Spelling, punctuation and grammar.
3. **Spoken language** (speaking and listening - audience and purpose; personal presence- eye contact; voice - pitch and volume).
4. **Writing** (writing non-fiction – writing a report; planning - planning a structure, editing and proofreading; literary techniques - informative language; vocabulary - use precise verbs).
5. **Spoken language** (speaking and listening - audience and purpose, discussion skills; personal presence - eye contact, gestures).