

Hair & Beauty



135,640

PEOPLE ARE EMPLOYED
IN THE HAIRDRESSING
& BEAUTY TREATMENT
INDUSTRY

THIS INDUSTRY HAS
AN ANNUAL REVENUE
OF AROUND
£4 BILLION

HAIRDRESSING
SALONS MAKE UP
75%
OF TOTAL REVENUE IN
THE SECTOR

From mullets to Mohawks, hair and beauty is something that we as people take very seriously. Everybody enjoys looking and feeling good and this sector is all about doing just that...

You ask us...

WHAT'S THE HAIR & BEAUTY SECTOR ALL ABOUT?

Plenty of old ladies wanting perms. No, only joking, there's so much more to this career path and when you get confident enough to create your own styles and treatments it's very rewarding to see them elsewhere.

WHAT KIND OF SALARY CAN I EXPECT TO EARN?

The starting salaries in this sector are relatively low, starting somewhere between **£10,000** and **£12,000** a year, but you will earn more as you gain experience.

WHAT KIND OF ENVIRONMENT WOULD I BE WORKING IN?

Unsurprisingly, this job is favoured more towards women. I haven't seen many men giving me advice on which eye shadow would compliment my complexion (not that I've asked...), however the number of male hairdressers is increasing. Whatever your gender, you'll be working with customers on a day to day basis so make sure your customer service skills are top notch. For therapists, the environment could be a nice relaxing spa area or if you go down the makeup line, you could find yourself in a department store or even in a TV studio!

WHERE WOULD I FIND THIS LINE OF WORK IN MY AREA?

Hair salons usually have link ups with local colleges and training providers and nearly all towns have at least two or three hairdressers, while high street employers such as Toni & Guy tend to be found in the bigger cities.



Careers Choices

Here are the main careers in this job sector; obviously you can specialise but the four main Hair and Beauty areas are as follows:

HAIRDRESSING

It's all about the hair here; you'll be cutting, styling, colouring, washing, perming and making people's hair look exactly how they want it to. You will begin as an apprentice working in a salon before gradually taking on more and more responsibility as you complete your training. Many professionals move on to setting up their own businesses or even go into the film and television industry as part of the make-up department – the ambitious will always be rewarded in this role. Salaries begin at around **£10,000**, but rise to **£16,000** with experience and qualifications.

SPA THERAPY

"Ahhh that's better" – a phrase you'll hear constantly in this career. Spa tourism contributes £1.4 billion a year to the UK economy and is growing all the time (everybody is so stressed these days). Spa Therapists offer a range of treatments that help improve somebody's well being, such as facials, massages, aromatherapy and sauna. You can specialise in a particular area, such as holistic

treatment, or have a general knowledge of all areas. Starting salary is between **£12,000** and **£14,000** a year.

NAIL TECHNICIAN

Manicures and pedicures are the order of the day in this career; you will be focusing on improving and maintaining the skin and nails on both hands and feet. This might be through treatments such as hot wax therapy and foot wraps, or more artistic work such as airbrushing designs onto nails. This is for those who like to combine art and practicality, as you will have to have an eye for the creative and a steady hand to make those designs look good. You can expect to earn between **£12,000** and **£17,000** a year in this field, which is dependent on qualifications and experience.

BEAUTY THERAPY

Like Spa therapy, you will be tasked with enhancing the well-being of clients through a range of different methods, such as various different types of makeup (that's mascara, lipstick, eye-shadow etc to you lads) or electronic treatments

and hair removal methods. The salaries vary depending on whether you work for a department store or a private firm, but the average starting salary is between **£12,000** and **£17,000** a year.

Where to begin

APPRENTICESHIPS

The majority of people aged 18-30 in this sector have an apprenticeship, so it's always a good place to start. Half your learning will be on the job and half in the classroom and you can do them in range of subjects from barbering (hairdressing really) to spa therapy. Here are some of the Apprenticeship frameworks relevant to this sector with the careers you will see and they will result in a level 2 qualification such as an NVQ, BTEC or Diploma.

Hairdressing • Beauty Therapy • Beauty Therapy (Make-up) • Nail Services

ADVANCED APPRENTICESHIPS

Like an apprenticeship, these are great for people who prefer to work while they learn. Many people find that it's a natural progression to go onto Level 3 because of the experience they get from doing so. A Level 3 qualification is yours for upon completion, such as an NVQ, BTEC or Diploma. Here are the relevant Apprenticeship Frameworks for your sector:

Hairdressing/Barbering • Beauty Therapy • Nail Services

COLLEGE COURSES

Colleges are also a good way to get into this sector; it is more learning based, but there is a fairly heavy practical element as well. To find out which colleges have courses relevant to the Hair and Beauty sector, visit www.careersworld.co.uk. Alternatively, check your local council to see which colleges provide courses.

A-LEVELS

Unfortunately, there isn't an A-level course in Hair and Beauty, but this sector is all about your customer service and personality rather than your academic qualifications. However, if you were interested in progressing into management or even taking on your own business, these courses may help you onto the right path:

Business Studies • Economics • ICT

FOUNDATION DEGREES

A foundation degree is a great way to gain a higher education qualification while learning practical skills. They are designed by universities and employers to give you both a qualification and the experience to carry into the working world.

They are the equivalent to the first two years of an honours degree and many people take them having worked in the sector for some time. There are various courses available, such as **Salon and Business Management**. **CW**