

Your Chances in Hair and Beauty

What jobs can I do in hair and beauty?

The hair and beauty industry helps people to look and feel good. There's a wide range of jobs in the sector from hair stylist, beauty therapist, nail technician and barber to salon manager and creative director. Jobs can be found in salon chains, cruise ships, spas, gyms, hotels, leisure centres and department stores. Beauty therapy can be a starting point for a career as a make-up artist in film & TV.

You could move from washing hair and reception duties to eventually working freelance or owning your own salon.

Although the industry has a glamorous image, it will take hard work and determination to succeed. Hair-dressing involves standing for long periods and working unsocial hours as many employers are open Saturdays and evenings. However, if you are looking for a creative and sociable job this industry could be for you.

Improving your chances of getting a job in Northumberland

Get some work experience - while you're still at school if you can. A Saturday job in a salon would be helpful but communication and customer service skills gained in any part-time or voluntary work will be useful.

Be proactive - finding your own placement will help your chances are getting an apprenticeship. Vacancies are often advertised in salon windows or through word of mouth. Try visiting salons and handing in your CV.

Widen your ideas - look for vacancies beyond high street salons. Jobs in the industry can also be found in health clubs, spas, hotels, leisure centres, etc.

Gain skills - employers in the industry are looking for employability and basic skills, so being able to demonstrate a range of skills and qualities including reliability, numeracy and literacy will improve your chances.

What's my chance of getting a job?

11.3% of school leavers in Northumberland who got jobs or began training at the end of Year 11 started work in hairdressing or related occupations (this includes beauty therapy). That was about 53 young people in Northumberland.

The best route into a job in hairdressing is through an apprenticeship. Many salons like to train their own staff and are more likely to keep on these staff once they have completed their training. Beauty salons prefer to employ staff who have trained at college and have qualifications at least at level 2.

Many businesses are small and employ only one or two people. At more senior levels the industry has reported difficulties in recruiting and retaining staff so if you can offer the right skills and qualities it will help your chances of getting a job. Jobs are more likely to be found in cities and towns so you may have to travel to make the most of opportunities available.

Pay

Employed apprentices can expect to start on a minimum of £80 a week (this will rise to £95 from August 2009). If you start a programme led apprenticeship, e.g. studying at college with some work experience before moving on to an apprenticeship with an employer, you can apply for EMA. When qualified, junior staff can expect to start on £10,000 a year.



What qualifications do I need?

This will depend on which area of the industry you work in. Most **beauty therapy** employers prefer you to have completed a college course and to progress you will need qualifications. You'll need to have good communication skills, enjoy working with people and be creative and artistic.

Diplomas in Hair and Beauty Studies will be available in Northumberland from September 2009.

Level 1 courses include NVQs in Beauty Therapy or Hairdressing. *GCSE* passes grades D-G will be required and often Maths and English is desirable. Some high schools offer NVQ level 1.

Level 2 courses include NVQs in Beauty Therapy, Hairdressing and Nail Services and Diploma in Hairdressing. This level of course usually requires 3 or 4 *GCSE* passes at grades D and above. *GCSEs* in English, Maths and Science will be required.

Level 3 courses include NVQs in Beauty Therapy and hairdressing and a National Diploma in Beauty Therapy Sciences. You'll need *GCSEs* at grade C and above including English and a science based subject. NVQs in Spa Therapy are available.

If you have a level 3 qualification it is possible to progress onto a Foundation Degree, HND or Degree. Northumberland College offers a Foundation Degree in Hairdressing and Salon Management.

So if I need experience and training how will I get that in Northumberland?

1. Apprenticeships and Advanced Apprenticeships in hair and beauty are available. These combine working with getting qualifications including National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs). Training is organised through work based learning providers. In Northumberland, Apprenticeships are available in Beauty Therapy and Hairdressing. See your copy of **Choices** or speak to your Connexions PA to find out what's available. This is the route preferred by hairdressing salons. Completing an apprenticeship to level 3 will increase your chances of work.

2. Through a full-time course at college. NVQs at level 1, 2 and 3 are available at college.

For college courses and apprenticeships you may need to pay for equipment. If you have difficulty paying for this speak to your PA who may be able to help you access funding.

3. An e2e course can provide a taster in hairdressing which could lead to an apprenticeship.

Colleges and schools change their courses every year so check with your local college or Connexions PA for full details.

Where will I find the vacancies?

Work based learning providers usually expect you to find your own placement with an employer who is willing to give you training. It's worth contacting local salons yourself to ask if they have any vacancies - check the Yellow Pages or yell.com for those in your area.

BOYS!

Though the industry is largely female, the number of men working in the industry has increased over the last decade.

Useful Contacts for more information

Connexions Northumberland - www.connexions-northumberland.org.uk

Northumberland College - (01670) 841200 www.northland.ac.uk

Tyne Metropolitan College - (0191) 2295000 www.tynemet.ac.uk

Newcastle College - (0191) 2004000 www.newcastlecollege.net

BL Hairdressing - (01670) 855531 www.blhairdressing.co.uk

Saks Education - (01325) 341629 <http://education.saks.co.uk>

Simply Students Hair and Beauty Training Salon - (01289) 302446

HABIA - (0845) 2306080 www.habia.org - good for information on careers in hairdressing and beauty.

Northumberland prospectus www.northumberland.14-19.org.uk

National Apprenticeship Vacancy Matching Service

