

Hair and beauty therapy

The hair and beauty industry – from personal services such as hairdressing, beauty therapy, body therapy and massage to professional services such as make-up for film and television – is a growing one. It is also demanding more training and qualifications. The United Kingdom (UK) has a great variety of courses at all levels, whether you wish to become a professional electrolysisist or just take a short course in manicure and pedicure while you improve your English.

Checklist: Why study in the United Kingdom?

- the UK has many well-established – and several world-renowned - colleges teaching every branch of the hairdressing and the beauty industry
- you can choose to study at either a state-funded college or a private college, and in any part of the country you wish
- many courses are specifically designed for students who want to improve their English as well as study beauty therapy or hairdressing
- all branches of the beauty industry in the UK have professional and/or regulatory bodies, and you will be able to study on a validated course
- you will be able to find a course at whatever level of study you choose.

1 What can I study?

You can take formal qualifications in all branches of the industry, including:

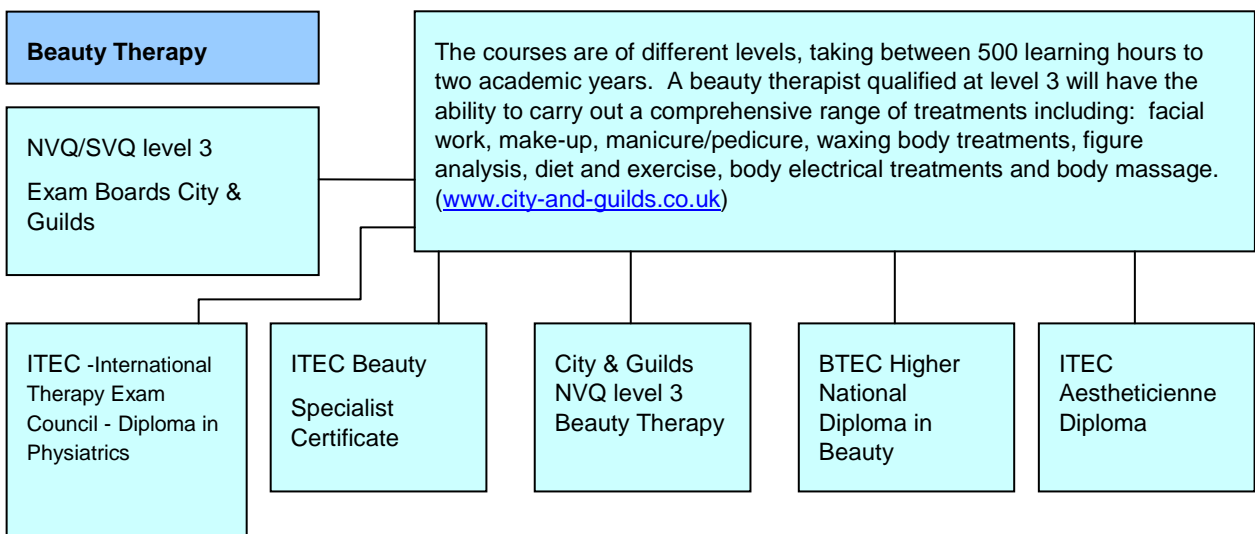
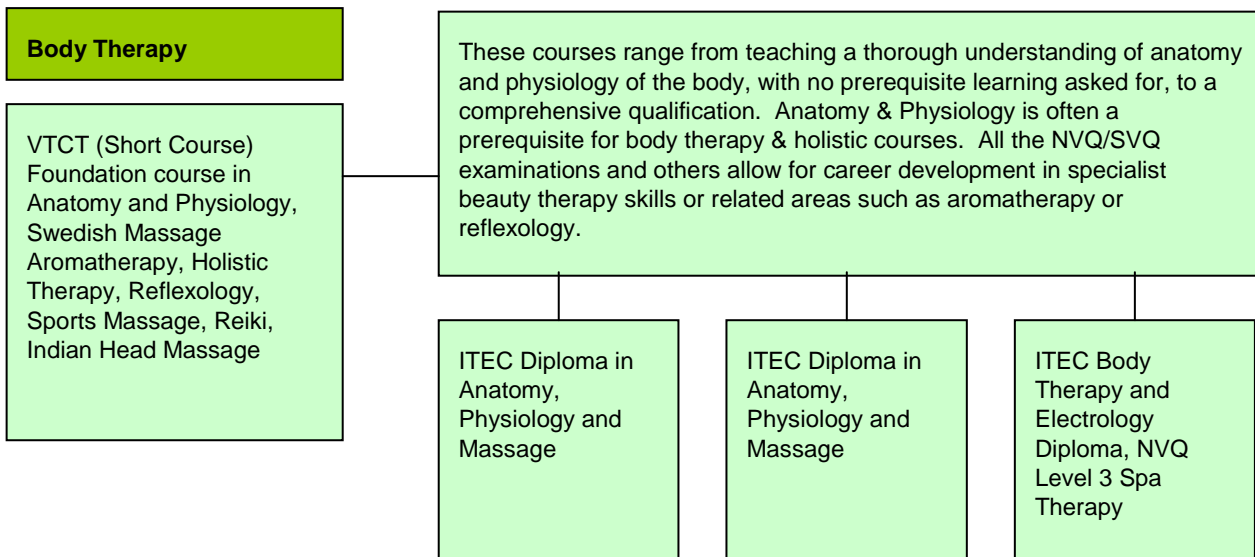
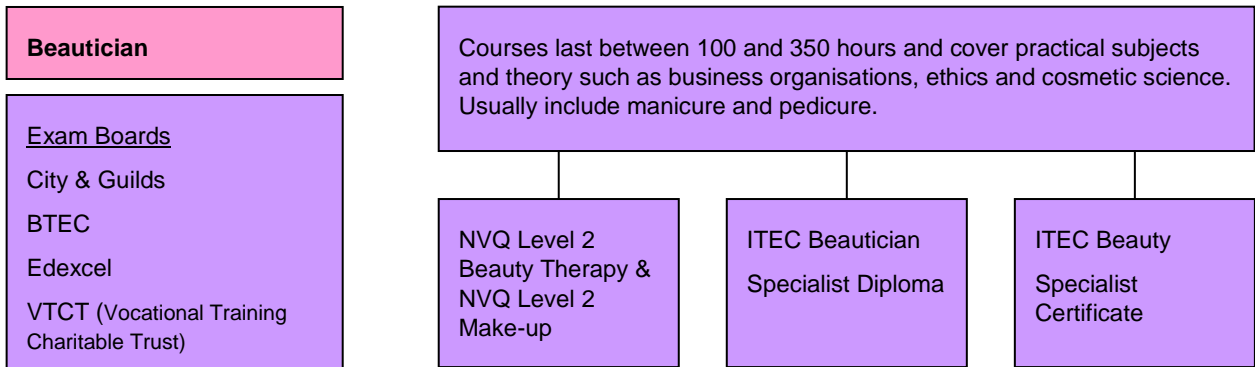
- beauty therapy – training in the provision of a wide range of treatments for the face and body (often including body therapy qualifications)
- hairdressing
- manicure and pedicure
- nail technician
- qualified beautician – specialising in skin care
- Spa therapist
- Massage therapist
- Beauty consultant – usually selling the products of cosmetics houses
- electrologists – the permanent removal of unwanted body hair
- make-up artist.

Further courses listed on the Hairdressing and Beauty Industry Authority (HABIA) website;

www.habia.org/



Many of the formal qualifications in these fields are summarised in the charts below.



Electrolysis

VTCT or BTEC
Electrolysis/Electrical
Epilation

Electrolysisists working in the United Kingdom are not required to become members of the Institute of Electrolysis although this may give them professional credibility. To join, you need NVQ Level 3 in Electrical Epilation, BTEC National Diploma with Epilation or BTEC Higher National Diploma with Epilation. You must then take a three-day entrance preparation course and pass a qualifying entrance exam.

BTEC Level 4 Higher
National Diploma in Hair,
Beauty and Holistics (Beauty
Therapy)

VTCT Electrolysis Diploma
course – lasts for a minimum of
300 hours of training, no previous
knowledge is required.

Make-up

Vocational Training Charitable
Trust
(VTCT) Diploma in Theatrical
and Media Make-up.

Film and Television Freelance
Training – trains people already
qualified in specialists fields

These courses are aimed at people who want to follow a career in professional make-up. The VTCT Diploma takes at least 950 learning hours and the ITEC Diploma at least 100 hours. Film and Television Freelance Training trains people already qualified to apply their skills in film and television production.

NVQ Level 3 Beauty
Therapy

ITEC Diploma Fashion,
Theatre and Media Make-up

Skillset and the British Film Institute run a database of 2,500 short and long courses in subjects including Advanced Fashion Make-up, Body Art, Film Television and Theatre, Fashion Hair and Make-up and Ageing for Film.

Nail Services

ITEC Certificate in Manicure
and Pedicure

This provides a sound background knowledge and practical skills, and is also a foundation for beginners in the industry. Manicure, pedicure, all nail extension systems including silk/fibre wraps, gel, acrylic & sculptured, nail art & airbrushing techniques. The minimum learning time is 50 hours, followed by written and practical examinations

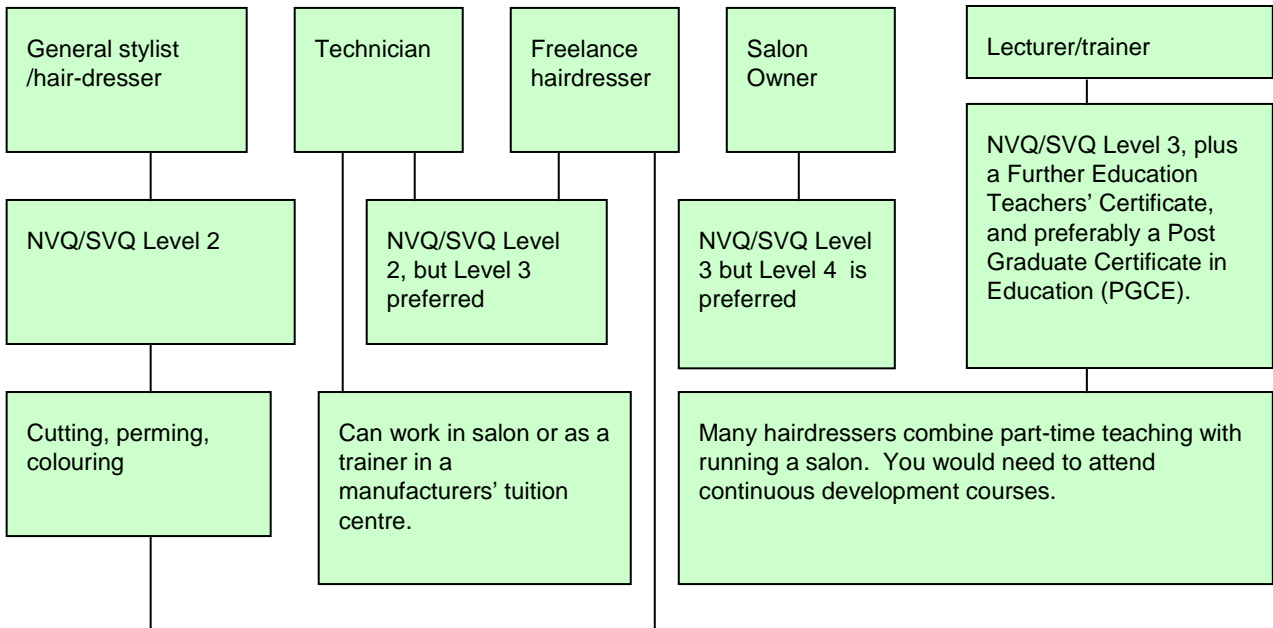
VTCT
Certificate -Nail
Art Technology

NVQ Levels 2
& 3 Nail
Service

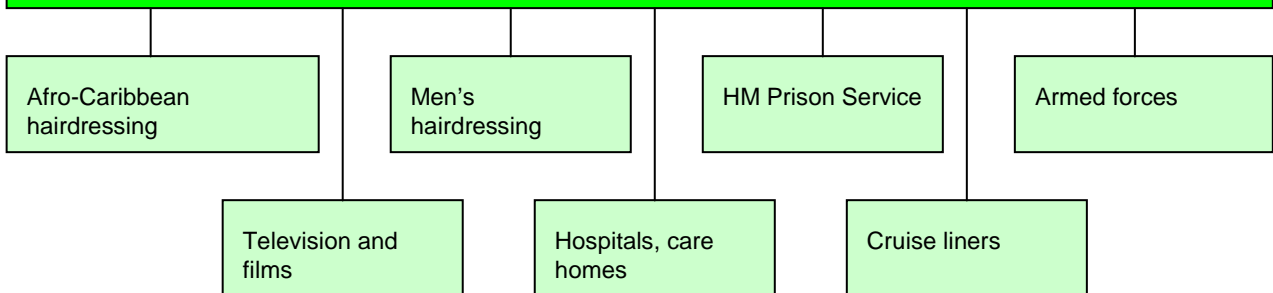
VTCT Nail
Technology

VTCT Nail Art

Hairdressing – an overview of the industry



Possible areas of work





Career-based courses

Courses in beauty therapy and related areas are offered at all levels, including National Vocational Qualification (NVQ)/Scottish Vocational Qualification (SVQ), BTEC/Edexcel First Diploma, BTEC/Edexcel National Diploma/Certificate and BTEC/Edexcel Higher National Diploma (HND). For general information on career-based training refer to *Choosing your career-based training course* in this series. To search for courses go to www.educationuk.org.

Degree courses

The only beauty therapy degree course currently available is the BSc (Hons) in Beauty Therapy with Management at Bradford College. A small number of foundation degrees are offered. For more information on foundation degrees go to www.foundationdegree.org.uk. To look for courses go to www.educationuk.org. Most universities now offer degree courses especially in spa and holistic therapies including sports massage and rehabilitation of sports injuries.

Short courses

You can choose from many short courses in most of the areas listed above. They can be as short as one day, but to gain a qualification (such as a recognised certificate in manicure) the shortest course would be four weeks (more usually seven weeks).

Courses that combine disciplines last about three months – a typical combination would be body therapy, including massage, aromatherapy, electrotherapy and epilation.

To search for short courses see www.hotcourses.com

Beauty subjects combined with English language

You can take courses combining all above subjects with English. Many colleges have courses specially designed for this purpose. These usually take between thirty-six weeks and one year. You can look for English courses that combine other subjects on www.educationuk.org/english or www.englishinbritain.co.uk.

International foundation courses

You can combine English language study with a wide variety of subjects, including beauty therapy, on these courses, which are offered at several colleges.

Private beauty training schools

There are many private colleges offering training in hairdressing and beauty-related subjects. Some run courses leading to National/Scottish Vocational Qualifications and others teach specialist beauty skills. If you want to gain a recognised qualification, check that the qualification is accredited by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (England and Wales) or the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA).

Further advice is available from the Hairdressing and Beauty Industry Authority (HABIA) (see 'Where can I find more information?').

Checklist: Choosing the right course

- your first decision is whether you want to emerge from your studies with a recognised qualification, or whether the overall experience is as important to you
- if the qualification is the more important factor to you, look for a college offering the City & Guild or BTEC Edexcel Diploma course or one of the other established qualifications, and check that the qualification is accredited by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (England and Wales) or the Scottish Qualifications Agency (SQA)
- consider whether you want to attend a private college, which may be in a location you prefer, or a state-funded college, which will be more mixed and will probably cost less
- go through this list when choosing a training centre that suits you:
 - how many students are on the course, and how many staff per student?
 - how many students were on the course last year, and how many achieved the right level?
 - does the course lead to an approved qualification in your field?
 - does the centre have a quality rating from an external organisation?
 - do you have to provide your own equipment?
 - can you look around the college or training centre, or meet current students and trainers?
 - can you enrol at any time, or are there set dates?

2 Entrance

Entrance qualifications for the different courses vary widely (some do not ask for any) and it is impossible to generalise. You should check with the course provider.

3 How can I register as a professional?

It is not required by law in the UK to register with any trade or professional bodies to practise in most of the areas described here. Electrolysisists working in the UK are not required to become members of the Institute of Electrolysis although registration may give them added professional credibility. However, you may have to register in other countries, and you should check this in advance. You should also check whether your British qualifications would be valid for registration in those countries.

4 Next steps

Checklist: Your next steps

- 1 Decide at which level you want to study – is it purely for interest, or to improve your spoken English at the same time, or for a high-level professional qualification?
- 2 Search for courses on www.educationuk.org
- 3 Seek information and advice from the Hairdressing and Beauty Industry Authority (HABIA) or from the examination bodies referred to in the tables above (see ‘What can I study?’).
- 4 For degrees and HNDs, apply through UCAS – for all other courses, apply directly to the institution.
- 5 Do not forget, if you intend to use your UK qualification to progress in your career at home, to check that it is recognised.

5 Where can I find more information?

British Council Education information

Website www.educationuk.org

For further information, you can find details of your nearest office at www.britishcouncil.org/home-contact-worldwide.htm which includes links to all our country web pages and a worldwide address book giving contact details for all offices.

EducationUK Scotland

Website www.educationukscotland.org

British Association of Beauty Therapy and Cosmetology (BABTAC) and Confederation of International Beauty Therapy and Cosmetology (CIBTAC)

BABTAC

Meteor Court

Barnett Way

Barnwood

Gloucester GL4 3GG

Telephone +44 (0) 845 065 9000

Fax +44 (0) 845 065 9001

Email enquiries@babtac.com

Website www.babtac.com

Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS)

P O Box 28

Cheltenham

Gloucestershire GL52 3LZ

Telephone +44 (0) 870 1122211

Fax +44 (0) 1242 544961

Email enquiries@ucas.ac.uk

Website www.ucas.com

British Federation of Massage Practitioners

78 Meadow Street

Preston

Lancashire PR1 1TS

Telephone +44 (0) 1772 881063

Fax +44 (0) 1772 881063

Email jolanta@jolanta.co.uk

Website www.jolanta.co.uk/bfmp.html

Edexcel

Stewart House

32 Russell Square

London WC1B 5DN

Telephone +44 (0) 870 240 9800

Fax +44 (0) 20 7758 6960

Email enquiries@edexcel.org.uk

Website www.edexcel.org.uk

Federation of Holistic Therapists

3rd Floor, Eastleigh House

Upper Market Street

Eastleigh

Hampshire SO50 9FD

Telephone +44 (0) 870 420 2022

Fax +44 (0) 23 8048 8970

Email info@fht.org.uk

Website www.fht.org.uk

Guild of Professional Beauty Therapists

Guild House

320 Burton Road

Derby DE23 6AF

Telephone +44 (0) 870 000 4243

Fax +44 (0) 870 000 4260

Email pat@beautyserv.net

Website www.beautyserve.com

Hairdressing and Beauty Industry Authority (HABIA)

Fraser House

Nether Hall Road

Doncaster DN1 2PH

Telephone +44 (0) 1302 380000

Fax +44 (0) 1302 380028

Email enquiries@habia.org.uk

Website www.habia.org.uk

Hairdressing Council

12 David House

45 High Street

South Norwood

London SE25 6HJ

Telephone +44 (0) 20 8771 6205

Email registrar@haircouncil.org.uk

Website www.haircouncil.demon.co.uk

Institute of Electrolysis Ltd

Emsdene

Church Street

Wellsbourne CV 35 9IS

Telephone +44 (0) 1789 471 571

Fax +44 (0) 870 051 3611

Email institute@electrolysis.co.uk

Website www.electrolysis.co.uk

Vocational Training Charitable Trust (VTCT)

Unit 11, Brickfield Trading Estate

Brickfield Lane

Chandlers Ford

Hampshire SO 53 4DR

Telephone +44 (0) 23 8027 1733

Fax +44 (0) 23 8027 0566

Email info@vtct.org.uk

Website www.vtct.org.uk

Qualifications and Curriculum Authority

83 Piccadilly
London W1J 8QA
Telephone +44 (0) 20 7509 5555
Fax +44 (0) 20 7509 6666
Website www.qca.org.uk

Skillset National Training Organisation

2nd floor, 103 Dean Street
London W1D 3TH
Telephone +44 (0) 20 7534 5300
Fax +44 (0) 20 7534 5333
Email info@skillset.org
Website www.skillset.org

Scottish Qualifications Authority

Hanover House
24 Douglas Street
Glasgow G2 7NQ
Telephone +44 (0) 141 242 2214
Fax +44 (0) 141 242 2244
Website www.sqa.org.uk

City and Guilds

1 Giltspur Street
London EC1A 9DD
Telephone +44 (0) 20 7294 2800
Fax +44 (0) 20 7294 2400
Email enquiry@city-and-guilds.co.uk
Website www.city-and-guilds.co.uk

Other useful resources

British Qualifications 34th ed. (Kogan Page, 2004, ISBN 0 7494 4138 0) – Lists every qualification on offer in the UK. This is arranged by schools, colleges, universities, business schools, learned societies, trade and professional bodies and associations.

The Hairdressing and Beauty Therapy Student Handbook (HABIA) career information available free. Sales Hotline 01302 380013.

Occupations 2004 (DfES, 2003, ISBN 0 8611 0864 7) an in-depth guide of over 600 career choices of all types from unskilled to professional work, also list prospects and qualification for each occupation.

NB. Please note these books may not be available at your local British Council office.

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information given here is correct and up to date, the British Council accepts no legal liability for its accuracy, currency or completeness.

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