



North Highland College University of the Highlands and Islands

Skills for Work Hairdressing & Beauty Units – National 4 (SCQF 4)

Overview of course

Students will work on five key elements which will give them an overview of both the hair and beauty industry which they can then specialise in further education. They will look at salon awareness, working the salon, creativity, beauty practical skills and employability skills.

Entry requirements/criteria

- Working towards national 4 level
- Demonstrate a keen interest in working within the hair and beauty industry
- Satisfactory reference

Students will be expected to -

- Be prepared to work hard all session
- Catch up on work missed if they are absent
- Ask for help if they need it
- Reflect on learning
- Prepare for practical lessons
- Work as part of a team
- Revise throughout the session
- Access and use the virtual learning environment

Therefore, the following attributes and skills are important for applicants –

- Motivation for learning
- Commitment to take personal responsibility for learning
- Confidence to ask questions
- Basic IT skills
- Independent study skills

What can students do after this course?

On completion they can apply for SVQ level 1 hair or beauty course.

Additional information on this course for Guidance Teachers

Employment opportunities in hairdressing and beauty are excellent.

Hairdressing: Apart from employment in the many busy salons locally and nationally there are opportunities for freelance hairdressers to work from home or from mobile units which can travel to people's homes or set up at festivals or any other events where people gather. It is possible to have the freedom of self-employment without the risks of purchasing premises by renting a chair in a salon. We have previous students who are now working as hairdressers on cruise liners and in luxury hotels, and some who have gone on to own their own salons employing staff themselves.

The training at college is very hands on and practical with students working on mannequin heads and on real clients. Teaching is informal with students and tutors working side by side in the college salons. The different student groups are integrated so that the newer students including pupils on the college link programme are supported by the more experienced students.

Anyone applying for the hairdressing courses would be expected to take a pride in their appearance and personal hygiene. It would also be essential that they would want to learn how to provide excellent customer service, and be able to work well as part of a team.

Hairdressing is a physical job and anyone working in the industry will need to have the stamina to be on their feet all day long. Hairdressers can be at their busiest when other people are off work, for example on Saturdays and on the run up to Christmas and New Year.

It is a job where there is direct feedback from clients, and this can be very rewarding and give a great sense of job satisfaction.

Beauty: On completion of this course, students can progress onto the Beauty Therapy SVQ L1 course. The skills learned as part of the Beauty Therapy SVQ L1 course are beneficial to a number of industry sectors.

As well as the technical skills required to carry out a range of non-invasive beauty treatments, the course helps to develop team working, customer care and communication skills as student fulfil roles in the commercial beauty salon and on the reception desk.

Much of the course is based in the Beauty salon working alongside SVQ L2 and 3 Beauty Therapy students who support and act as role models. Confidence will develop as the students become used to working in a commercial salon environment with clients and therapists.

Students will learn about lifestyle choices including diet and personal presentation.

Students who have previously undertaken these qualifications are working in the industry providing treatments in beauty salons and hair salons as well as in retail roles. Others are working in luxury hotels and spas and on cruise liners. Beauty therapist roles in beauty salons are a great way to progress and keep abreast of new treatments and products, with further opportunities to become a senior therapist, salon manager or salon owner once they gain the necessary experience. Mobile therapists and nail technicians are also very sought after, and can be a profitable and rewarding vocation.

Those who successfully complete may then apply for either the Hair and Beauty Skills course which runs for 6 months from January, or SVQ Level 2 Beauty Therapy. Students completing the qualification have numerous career options.

Applicants should show a keen interest in personal presentation and personal hygiene, have good communication skills and have a desire to provide excellent customer service.