

BEAUTY THERAPIST

Beauty therapists carry out face and body treatments to help clients look and feel better.

Entry requirements

To become a fully qualified beauty therapist, you'll usually need to complete a level 2 or level 3 qualification in beauty therapy.

You could start as an assistant in a salon or spa and study for qualifications on the job, or do a full-time or part-time college course while looking for work.

You could also train with a private beauty school.

You could get into this job through an apprenticeship.

You may find it useful to get professional recognition by joining a register like the Register of Beauty Professionals

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Skills required

You'll need:

- A friendly and welcoming manner
- the ability to make clients feel relaxed
- the ability to explain procedures clearly to clients
- tact and diplomacy
- the ability to sell products and earn commission
- business awareness if you're self-employed

What you'll do

You'll provide a range of face and body treatments. Your day-to-day tasks may include:

- giving a facial by cleansing, massaging and toning a client's skin
- giving a makeover by applying and advising on make-up
- shaping eyebrows and colouring eyelashes
- giving a manicure, pedicure or other nail treatment like extensions and nail art
- removing unwanted facial and body hair
- giving electro-therapy treatments to improve body tone and shape
- giving non-surgical skin improvement treatments
- offering UV (ultraviolet) and spray tanning

You may offer other treatments like massage, aromatherapy, hydrotherapy and reflexology.

As well as carrying out treatments, you may also:

- answer the telephone and greet clients
- book appointments
- check and order supplies
- keep notes of clients' medical histories and treatment programmes
- refer clients to a doctor if needed

Salary Guide

Starter: £15,000

Experienced: £17,000

Highly Experienced: £20,000 or more (Salon managers)

You may also get tips, and be paid extra for products you sell in the salon.

Working hours, Patterns and Environment

You'll usually work from 9am to 5pm, including Saturdays. Some salons offer evening appointments.

You will work in a high street salon and beauty clinic.

You will spend a lot of your time standing.

Career Path and Progression

With experience you could progress to salon manager.

You could become self-employed and get your own salon, work from home or travel to clients.