

Beauty Therapist

Beauty therapists specialise in skin and body care, including the hands and feet. They offer a wide range of treatments to improve clients' appearance and to increase their sense of wellbeing.

The Work

You could be:

- getting to know and understand your clients' needs by completing a health questionnaire with them and discussing their answers
- cleansing and toning the clients' skin using steam treatment, face packs and massage with special oils and creams
- advising on and applying make-up, and giving eyebrow and eyelash treatment
- carrying out specialist treatment on hands and feet (manicure and pedicure)
- removing unwanted hair from the face and body using waxing, threading, electrolysis, laser or intense pulse light (IPL) treatments
- offering nail treatments, including nail extensions and nail art
- providing electrical treatments, such as microdermabrasion, to parts of the body to improve skin condition
- offering other specialist treatments, for example massage, aromatherapy, hydrotherapy, reflexology or spray tan application.

Pay

The figures below are only a guide. Actual salaries may vary, depending on:

- where you work
- the size of the company or organisation you work for
- the demand for the job.

Starting salaries for beauty therapists in Scotland begin around £16,000 a year. Senior beauty therapists may earn from £20,000 to £25,000 a year. Tips and commission from the sale of products can supplement salaries.

Some employers, such as hotels, may offer live-in accommodation.

Conditions

- You will work in a clean and hygienic environment.
- You usually work with one client at a time in a cubicle or private room. You might do manicure or pedicure work in an open area, alongside other staff and clients.
- If you are self-employed you could be working from your own home or visiting clients' homes.
- You would usually need to work some weekends and evenings.
- You usually wear a uniform.

Getting In

- You usually enter by taking a one or two year full time course at college.
- The SQA offers various levels of qualification including NC, NQ and SVQ (SCQF Levels 4-6), HNC (SCQF Level 7) and HND (SCQF Level 8). Entry varies from no formal entry requirements for some NQs and NCs to 2 Highers including English and a science subject (preferably Biology), or other relevant national qualifications at SCQF Level 5 or 6, for some HNDs.
- Most employers expect entrants to hold an HND or minimum SVQ at SCQF Level 6 qualification.
- There are SVQs at SCQF Levels 5 and 6 in Beauty Therapy and Nail Services.
- Depending on the treatments you provide, this can be a tiring job.
- You should not be prone to allergies.

Jobcentres generally have a range of vacancies on offer. You could find work in spa therapy centres, hotels, beauty salons or on cruise liners.

What Does It Take

You need to have:

- excellent interpersonal skills for dealing with clients
- some knowledge of human biology
- good listening skills
- an eye for detail
- stamina
- good artistic skills if specialising in areas like make-up, nail art or skin decoration.

You need to be:

- able to build your clients' confidence in your treatments
- self-confident
- smartly dressed and well presented
- tactful, patient and persuasive
- computer literate.

Training

- In addition to the SQA courses mentioned above, there are qualifications awarded by the following organisations: [City and Guilds](#); [Federation of Holistic Therapists](#); [Hairdressing and Beauty Industry Authority \(HABIA\)](#); [Vocational Training Charitable Trust \(VTCT\)](#); [Scottish Therapy Academy](#); [The Guild of Beauty Therapists](#).
- Qualifications offered by the [Confederation of International Beauty Therapy and Cosmetology \(CIBTAC\)](#), the [International Therapy Examination Council \(ITEC\)](#) and the [Comité International d'Esthétique et de Cosmétologie \(CIDESCO\)](#) give you qualifications that are recognised all over the world.
- Beauty therapists can also do further training in the field of complementary therapies and then offer treatments such as aromatherapy, reflexology, Reiki and Indian Head Massage.

Getting On

- With experience you can open your own salon.
- If you are self-employed and provide electrolysis treatment, you must obtain a licence from the local authority you operate in.
- You could move into sales and marketing in the beauty industry.
- There may be opportunities in film and television work.
- You could move into training or into teaching in colleges of further education.

Contacts

Habia (Hairdressing and Beauty Industry Authority)

Tel: 01302 774926

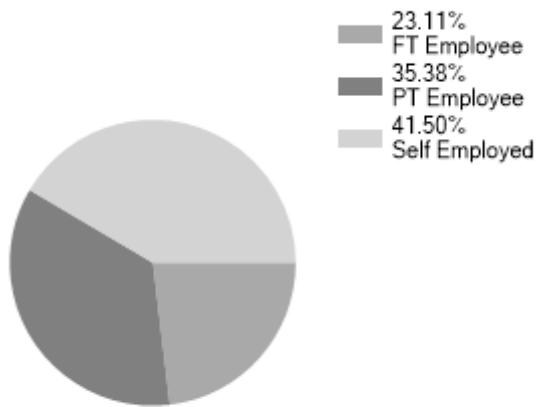
Email: info@habia.org

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Statistics

Employment Status UK %

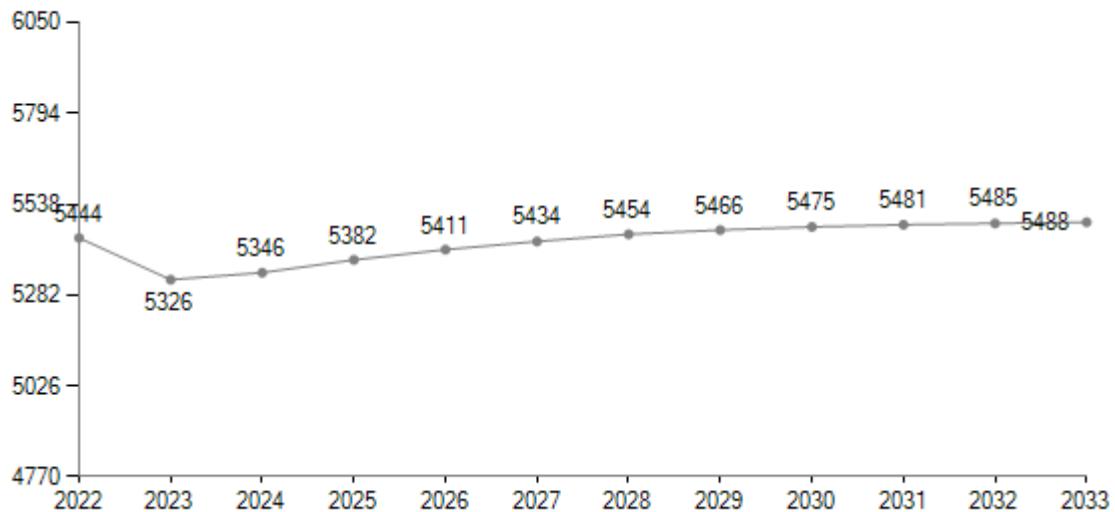


Past Unemployment - Scotland

No Claimant statistics available for Scotland.

LMI data powered by [LMI for All](#)

Predicted Employment in Scotland



LMI data powered by [Lightcast](#)