

# Diploma in Hair and Beauty Studies

A Brief Introduction

Improving choice  
Improving chances

## **A Brief Introduction to the Hair and Beauty Sector in the UK**

In an increasingly image-conscious society the hair and beauty sector is thriving like never before. All around the world the UK's hair and beauty industry has a reputation as one of the best. The sector has an annual turnover of around £6.4 billion and encompasses all types of hairdressing (including barbering and African Caribbean), beauty therapy, nail services and spa therapy. People with diverse qualities and skills are attracted to work in hair and beauty (Charles Worthington famously gave up a degree course in architecture to become a hairdresser) and top practitioners can command large salaries and rub shoulders with celebrities, TV and film producers, magazine editors and fashion designers. The industry needs recruits who are good with people, enthusiastic, reliable and who have plenty of stamina. In return, they could find themselves running their own business, working in a spa, a holiday resort or even on board a plane. The Diploma will also offer opportunities to work with people in hospital who are seriously ill or those who have suffered facial disfigurement and burns. The qualification will give young people a taste of this hard-working, fashion-conscious industry and opens doors into an exciting world.

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## What is the Diploma in Hair and Beauty Studies?

The Diploma in Hair and Beauty Studies will introduce young people to the huge range of opportunities that exist within this sector and allow them to experience the reality of working as a hairdresser, barber, beauty/spa therapist or nail technician. This will equip them to make informed choices about future careers or further study, whether or not they choose to remain in the hair and beauty sector. The Diploma content reflects the rapid growth and expansion of the hair and beauty sector and shows how it relates to other industries. Students learn about developments in technology that are driving the sector forward and examine the growing public interest in personal appearance and wellbeing and the influence of this on the rapid growth of the industry.

Diploma students will also develop a good standard of English, Maths and ICT. This broad mix of knowledge, understanding and skills will equip young people for college, university or employment.

There are three levels of Diploma.

Starting in Year 10 or 12:

**The Foundation Diploma** is a level 1 qualification that takes broadly the same time to do as four or five GCSEs.

**The Higher Diploma** is a level 2 qualification that takes broadly the same time to do as five or six GCSEs.

Starting in Year 12 or above:

**The Advanced Diploma** is a level 3 qualification that takes broadly the same time to do as three A levels.

A Progression Diploma will also be available, which takes broadly the same time as two A levels. This will suit students who do not wish to complete a whole Advanced Diploma.

### **What will Diploma Students Learn?**

Students on a Diploma in Hair and Beauty Studies will complete a series of compulsory and optional topics designed to give them knowledge, skills and experience that will equip them for life, learning and work. They will learn using real-life examples or in a realistic learning environment, bringing the Diploma to life and making it more relevant to hair and beauty industries in the real world.

## Compulsory Courses

At Foundation level students study six compulsory topics which have been designed to give them a broad understanding of the sector and the way it works. They will investigate the standards of personal presentation and lifestyle choices required for working within the industry, training and qualification options, career opportunities, how an individual's personality and culture can be expressed through their hair style and image, how they are affected as consumers, and how they can manage their own hair, skin, hand and nail care.

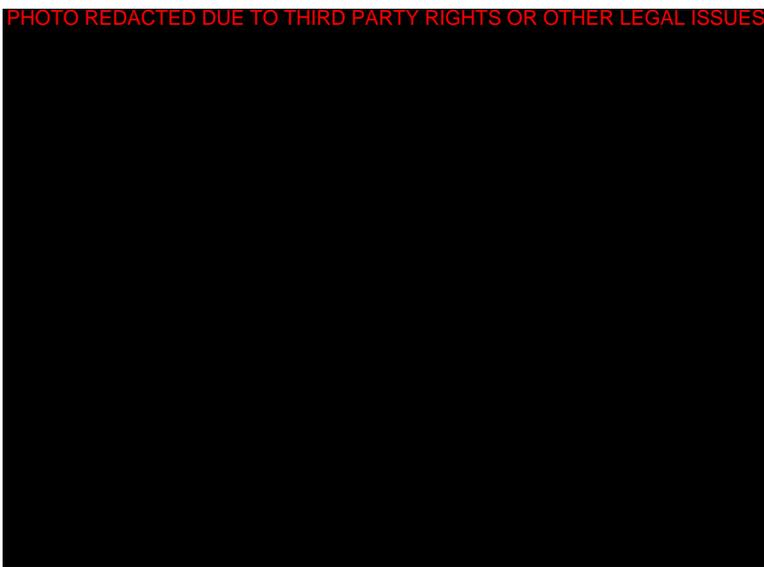
Higher-level students are introduced to the work of the different professions in more detail. For example they may look at the world of hair and beauty, cultural and diversity issues, the science involved within the industry, selling and promotional skills, and consultation skills. They may also explore the practical skills of hair care and styling, skin care and make-up, and hand care and nail art. At Advanced level students develop general management and business skills in a hair and beauty context, as well as looking at product development. They learn about anatomy and physiology, the media and its role in creating an image and its influence upon them as consumers, the world of spas and cosmetic science. As with every part of the Diploma, the emphasis is very much on learning through doing.

## Choices

Students have the flexibility to choose from a wide range of additional or specialist learning options that are also part of the Diploma in Hair and Beauty Studies. Foundation level students can choose from seven specialist topics according to their personal interests and objectives. For example they may wish to

learn the basics of styling hair for women, plaiting and wrapping hair or themed face painting. There are 14 optional subjects at Higher level and 11 at Advanced level. Students may want to study a particular subject in more depth if they have a particular career path in mind, or they may prefer to keep their options open by taking a mix of subjects. These might include Origins, Principles and Theories of Massage, Exploring the Principles of Complementary and Alternative Medicine, and Advanced Nail Art and Hand Decoration.

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Diploma students can also choose a subject that broadens their study programme – perhaps a language or a science.

### **Student Project**

All Diploma students will complete a project to demonstrate the skills and knowledge they have acquired. Students can choose their own project. For example they might choose to look at the



role of the media in the rise in the number of eating disorders and come up with ideas to improve personal self-image amongst vulnerable young women and men.

### **Personal, Learning and Thinking Skills**

Mastering essential life and work skills is crucial in today's competitive job market. So all Diploma students are encouraged to develop skills like teamwork and self-management as part of their course. They will learn how to express themselves confidently and how to apply their knowledge and skills creatively in a work environment.

### **Work Experience**

Diploma students will do a minimum of 10 days work experience. They will also get the chance to learn and be mentored by professionals working in their chosen field. For example a student might work on the reception desk of a local health spa or might shadow a nail technician at a local beauty salon.

### **English, Maths and ICT**

All Diploma students need to achieve a minimum standard in English, maths and ICT. These subjects can be studied as part of the Diploma or can be taken as a GCSE alongside it.

### **A Typical Week**

Diplomas are taught through a lively mix of classroom learning, practical projects, local community involvement and work-related learning. Students receive input from a range of different people, including teachers, college lecturers, local business people and

industry practitioners. A typical student at Foundation and Higher levels would spend two days a week on Diploma study (in and out of the classroom) with the rest of the timetable available for GCSEs and National Curriculum studies. An Advanced student timetable might include practical workshops or master classes, work experience, classroom-based learning and learning off-site.

### **What will the Diploma lead to?**

The Diploma is designed to broaden a student's horizons and give them a wide range of next-step options.

The Advanced Diploma can lead on to college or university, or to further training and employment. Young people who have completed a Foundation or Higher Diploma in Hair and Beauty Studies might choose to go on to do an Advanced Diploma, or perhaps to do A levels. They could also decide to start an Apprenticeship or take a job within the industry, with further training.

The Diploma in Hair and Beauty Studies does not mean that students have to pursue a career in this sector. A Diploma gives students relevant, transferable skills that will be welcomed by colleges, universities and employers.

## Case Study

**This might be the experience of a Diploma student taking a Diploma in Hair and Beauty Studies.**

**Name:** Carl

**Age:** 14

### **Which Diploma would I do?**

I would like to do the Higher Diploma in Hair and Beauty Studies

### **Why?**

I really enjoyed helping out in my uncle's salon over the summer holidays, particularly seeing people look completely different after they've had their hair done and, with the nail technology, seeing how the different chemicals react to produce an effect. Mum and dad think I'll work harder if I do something I really want to do so they've agreed to me doing the Diploma. They want me to keep my options open, though, so I'll probably do Science, Design and Technology and another GCSE for my remaining choices.

### **Highlight**

I'm most looking forward to finding out about the different careers in the industry, like working in TV or films.

### **Where next?**

I'm planning to do the Advanced Diploma after this or an Apprenticeship in Hairdressing or Nail Technology. If I change my mind, I can still study A levels instead, which is great.



*"The Diploma will be of huge benefit to young people looking to keep their options open and parents wanting them to make the right choices. By combining different types of learning, the Diploma gives young people the skills and abilities to help them in their education and careers, as well as the experience to make an informed choice about their future path."*

**Andrew Barton, 2006 British Hairdresser of the Year**

*"The Diploma in Hair and Beauty Studies will provide an exciting and relevant programme of study, designed to appeal to the most capable students preparing for university courses. Diplomas give young people a real alternative to traditional learning routes, offering a blend of general education and applied learning."*

**Professor David Gray, Dean of University of Derby**

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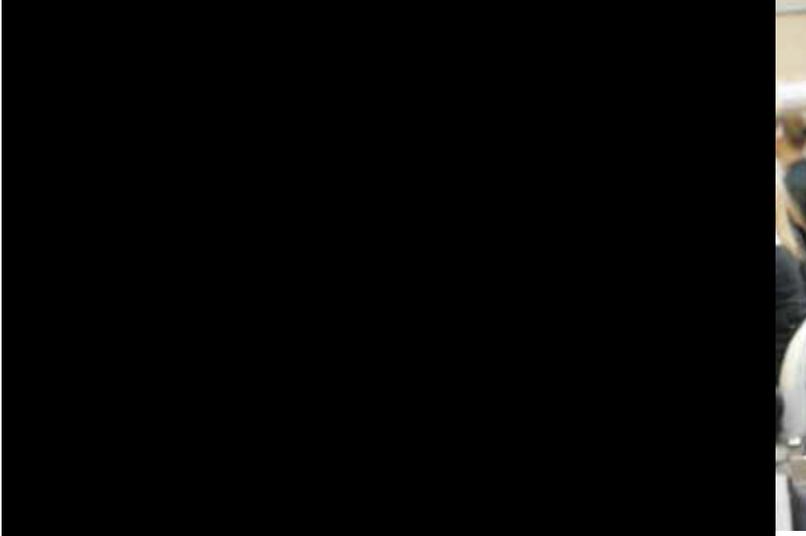


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The Diploma in Hair and Beauty Studies will be taught for the first time by selected schools and colleges across England from September 2009. For more information, visit [www.habia.org](http://www.habia.org) or [www.dcsf.gov.uk/14-19](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/14-19).

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