

Hairdresser & Barber

Hairdressers cut, style and colour clients' hair to create the look they want.

ANNUAL SALARY

£14,000 to £30,000

Average UK salary in 2019 was £26,588
(source Office for National Statistics)



WORKING HOURS

37 to 40 a week

You could work: evenings / weekends; on a rota

-1%



FUTURE EMPLOYMENT

There will be 1% fewer Hairdresser jobs in 2024.
[In your local area](#)

What's it all about?

What you'll do

Day to day tasks

As a junior hairdresser, you'll:

- welcome customers
- shampoo and condition hair
- cut simple styles
- make sure towels and hair products are well stocked
- keep the salon clean and tidy
- make appointments
- provide scalp, face and neck massages
- clean and sterilise equipment, like combs, razors and clippers

As a more senior hairdresser, you'll:

- talk to clients about what they want
- suggest style ideas
- cut and style hair
- colour, curl or straighten hair
- give advice on minor hair and scalp problems

- take payments
- order stock and promote products to customers
- keep up to date with new trends, techniques and hair products

Barbers will also have additional tasks, such as:

- shave, trim and shape beards and moustaches

Working environment

You could work in a salon, at a client's home, at a health spa, at a store, at an adult care home or on a cruise ship.

Your working environment may be physically demanding.

Entry requirements

You could get into this job through:

- a college course
- an apprenticeship
- working towards this role

College

You can take a Level 2 or 3 Diploma in Hairdressing.

You may be able to combine these courses with other subjects like beauty therapy, make-up and nails.

Entry requirements

You'll usually need:

- 2 or more GCSEs at grades 9 to 3 (A* to D), or equivalent, for a level 2 course
- 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), or equivalent, for a level 3 course

Apprenticeship

You can do an intermediate or advanced apprenticeship in hairdressing, or a creative hair professional advanced apprenticeship.

Entry requirements

You'll usually need:

- some GCSEs, usually including English and maths, or equivalent, for an intermediate apprenticeship
- 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A* to C), or equivalent, including English and maths, for an advanced apprenticeship

Work

You may be able start work as a trainee hairdresser in a salon and learn on the job. Your employer would expect you to take qualifications part-time, either at a college or in their own training school.

Skills and Knowledge

You'll need:

- customer service skills
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- patience and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations
- excellent verbal communication skills
- the ability to work well with others
- to be flexible and open to change
- the ability to work well with your hands
- active listening skills
- to be able to carry out basic tasks on a computer or hand-held device

Career tips

You may be able to work freelance and rent space in a salon, though you may have to supply your own equipment.

Further information

You can find out more about careers in hairdressing from the [Hair and Beauty Industry Authority](#) and [National Hairdressers' Federation](#).

Employment by region

Region	Jobs
East of England	23,468
Scotland	14,009
North East	4,916
East Midlands	19,387
Northern Ireland	7,602
London	29,707
Yorkshire and the Humber	14,920
South West	19,448
Wales	11,329
West Midlands	23,745
South East	39,743
North West	20,052

Career path and progression

With experience you could become a senior stylist or salon manager. With further qualifications, you could also move into training or assessing student hairdressers.

You could also open your own salon.

Other options include wig making, training in make-up techniques and working in the theatre, film and television industries.

Other useful information

The Hair and Beauty Industry Authority (HABIA) has information about choosing hairdressing as a career.