

# HAIRDRESSING & BARBERING:

## Barber

You can study with a private training provider or at a college of further education.

You could either undertake an apprenticeship or a part-time or full-time college course to study. These courses will help you gain both practical knowledge and strengths that you can demonstrate to a future employer.

Private training providers run courses all year, but further education colleges usually enrol learners at the start of the academic year which is September. Colleges start advertising and enrolling early, so we'd encourage you to speak with someone at the college to get all your questions answered. You can often find your answers by visiting the training

Find a training provider in your area that offers VTCT qualifications:  
[www.vtct.org.uk/find-a-centre](https://www.vtct.org.uk/find-a-centre)

provider's website for more details. Not sure what training providers in your area have the courses you want to study? You can find a training provider that offers VTCT qualifications through our website: <https://www.vtct.org.uk/find-a-centre/>.

### What will your first course cover?

You would start with an induction session that would detail the requirements such as dress, associated kits, centre regulations, examination details and an overview of the course content. This will give you all the information so you will know exactly what you will be doing over the length of the course. You will also cover understanding Health and Safety rules associated with a barber shop and the use of tools. You will learn how to prepare a client for a service and learn what the products are used for within the barber shop.

### How long will it take to complete your studies?

For a Level 2 and a Level 3 Barbering course at a College of Further Education you should expect to study for two years. If you study with a private training provider this will vary and may be more intensive allowing you to complete faster. If you choose an apprenticeship, you will be working in a Barber Shop and earning money whilst you gain your qualification.

### Why do I need both level 2 and level 3 skills?

Level 2 is about learning the basics of the job. A good foundation of all the knowledge and skills will stand you in good stead for a lifetime of employment in the barbering sector. To be a good all round barber that can offer all barbering services you should study the level 3 knowledge and techniques. They will include more creative and precision cutting on both facial and haircuts as well as shaving skills.



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### Paying for your course:

**Government funding:** If you are between the ages of 16 – 19 the government will pay for your tuition fees. In some cases, you can apply for a bursary from the government to help with education related costs such as clothing, books and transportation. If you are over 19, you can apply for an advanced learner loan but you will need to check with your college or training provider to see if the course is eligible. If you take out a loan, you have to pay it back but only when you earn over £25,000. You will repay 9% of any income you earn over £25,000.

**Working:** Many students work whilst on a barbering course, but be aware you will have a lot of homework and studying to do as well as the hours you spend in your training centre. We would suggest to never take on more than you can handle. Make the qualification your top priority if you can. It would be best to look for industry related part-time work. You will be able to add it to your CV as well as it being an opportunity to learn even more about the industry you want to enter.

If you are looking to work whilst studying, find a job in the industry to improve your CV.

### Required equipment and approximate costs:

You will need equipment. You will need tools for your trade, and depending upon their quality, the costs can vary. It's good to plan for your start-up costs to be between £100 - £200. Think of this as an investment in your future career. Buying quality equipment that will last will be important.

### What will your classes be like?

Class sizes will depend upon the training provider you attend and can be mixed with different levels of ability. Once you have achieved a good basis of skills, you may work in a commercial salon/barber shop on clients alongside other barbers/hairdressers.



### Should you study full-time or part-time?

You can study full-time or part-time. You should pick a course that will fit in with your current job/workload. Apprenticeships are two years but learnt while on the job. Intensive courses can be every day for approximately three months or full time courses can be 1-3 days per week for a year. Whichever format you choose, the more you practice the better your skills will become.