

HAIRDRESSING & BARBERING:

Cruise Ship Hairdresser

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

You could either undertake an apprenticeship or a full-time college course to study. These courses will help you gain strengths that you can demonstrate in practical areas for a future employer. You would then go on to complete a Level 3 qualification in order to be able to work on a cruise ship.

Colleges start advertising and enrolling early, so we'd encourage you to speak with someone at the college to

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www.vtct.org.uk/find-a-centre

get all your questions answered. You can often find your answers by visiting their website for more details. Not sure what colleges in your area have the courses you want to study? You can find colleges that offer VTCT qualifications through our website: <https://www.vtct.org.uk/find-a-centre/>.

What will your first course cover?

You will likely be expected to do a minimum 2 years of study. You will do a Level 2 in the first year and Level 3 in the second year. 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 course gives you the information to know exactly what you will be doing over the next year so you will feel comfortable starting this journey. You will also cover Health and Safety rules associated with a salon 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 salon. Individuals who work on cruise liners usually undergo a sales training programme as part of their induction.

What will your classes be like?

Class sizes will depend upon the training provider you attend and can be mixed with different levels of abilities. Once you have a specific skill you may work in the commercial salon on clients alongside other barbers/hairdressers.

Should you study full-time or part-time?

You can study full-time or part-time. Of course, full-time is a better option if you are trying to complete the courses faster. Again, your level 2 courses will take about two years to complete if studying full-time. Some colleges that offer part-time courses may require you to include more practice time on your techniques at home with friends and family.



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Paying for your schooling:

Government funding: If you are between the ages of 16 – 19 then you could 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 taking courses, but be aware you will have a lot of homework and studying to do as well as the hours you spend in college. 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 - £150. Think of this as an investment in your future career. Buying quality equipment that will last will be important.

What you can expect on the job:

You can expect a lot of travel opportunities and even be able to travel the world. Your first cruise will most likely be eight months long, some cruise company's will ensure all your living expenses are paid, but you won't necessarily earn a wage. Any cash you get in commission and tips are yours to keep! Depending on your cruise company, you may get some added training before heading out to sea on the practises of the ship.



During your time on the cruise ship you'll most likely be doing glamorous, bouncy hairstyles and beautiful up-do's. You may also be required to take to the stage and do talks and demonstrations to gain clients and to sell various products.

Typically, a cruise ship hairdresser will be happy to speak and engage with everyone you see, whether it's as a client or someone passing by the salon.