

BARBERING & HAIRDRESSING CAREERS:

Barber

WHERE TO STUDY?

You could either undertake an apprenticeship or a college course to study. These courses will help you gain both practical knowledge and strengths that you can demonstrate to 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 providers 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/>.

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.



WHERE CAN I WORK?

You can find work as a Barber in many different locations as our iTEC and VTCT qualifications offer international mobility. You could work in any of the following:

- Barbershop,
- Cruise ships,
- Self-employment,
- Education route (teacher/assessor)



WHAT KIND OF COURSES SHOULD YOU TAKE?

iTEC and VTCT are the market leaders for hair and beauty providing high-quality qualifications; there is high demand within the industry for more qualified barbers. We have a range of qualifications from apprenticeships through to vocational and technical qualifications at levels 2 and 3.

You can choose a shorter course such as a certificate to see if you like barbering. As you continue your studies, you could do a diploma such as the NVQ Level 2 Diploma in Barbering.



In most cases, to undertake a Level 3 qualification you would need to have completed a Level 2 qualification first. A Level 3 will build on existing knowledge and understanding of Barbering and will develop an enhanced repertoire of technical skills and prepare you for a career as a senior barber. There are over 15 different barbering qualifications (at different levels) and of different sizes on our websites, so there are plenty of options.

A Level 3 diploma, such as the VTCT Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Barbering or the iTEC Level 3 Certificate in Barbering, includes all the required elements to work effectively as an advanced barber including: health and safety; client consultation; creative hair cutting, designing and creating facial hair shapes, selling products and services to clients.



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HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?



Many ask "How long will it take to complete my studies?" For a **Level 2**, this will depend on who you decide to train with. With a private training provider a certificate level qualification can be as little as 3 months to 1-2 years with a college. An apprenticeship in a hair professional barbering qualification typically takes up to 24 months to complete. Barbershops who take on apprentices will usually enrol you to a local college that will provide you with additional theory knowledge and practical experience.

For a **Level 3**, course at a college, you will be on a course usually from September to the following June, but some training providers have a roll on roll off registration throughout the year. On the Diploma qualification there are usually around 334 study hours involved which is roughly **7 - 10** hours per week. If you want to study a Technical Level Qualification, these qualifications are usually delivered through a further education college and are graded at either Pass, Merit or Distinction.

CAN I WORK WHILST I STUDY?

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.



WHAT WILL 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 achieved a good basis of skills, you may work in a commercial salon/barber shop on clients alongside other barbers.



WHAT EQUIPMENT WILL I NEED?

As a training barber 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.

