

## Where can I go to get free guidance and advice?

Visit Habia's website for the latest guidance and advice on careers in hairdressing and barbering.

[www.habia.org](http://www.habia.org)

### Careers Service/Connexions

The Careers Service in England is called Connexions and provides advice on education and training opportunities in their region.

They provide people with guidance and information on career options open to them, helping them to choose the right career.

Connexions contains leaflets from particular employers and training organisations, they also hold information about job vacancies.

For more information, visit the website at

[www.connexions.gov.uk/young.htm](http://www.connexions.gov.uk/young.htm)

or call **learn**direct on freephone

0800 100 900

For more information specific to

Modern Apprenticeships visit

[www.dfes.gov.uk/modapp](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/modapp)



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Wella, Leaders in Professional Education Worldwide

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## standards • information • solutions

Habia is the government approved standards setting body for hair, beauty, nails, spa therapy, barbering and African-Caribbean hairdressing, and creates the standards that form the basis of all qualifications including NVQs, SVQs and Apprenticeships, as well as codes of practice.

A central point of contact for information, Habia provides guidance on careers, business development, legislation, salon safety, equal opportunities, and is responsible to government on industry issues such as training and skills.

Habia raises the profile of its industries through the press and media, and is the first port of call for organisations such as the BBC, Channel 4 and Sky TV on news items and background information.

Habia also delivers solutions direct to:

**salons** – to help them understand complex legislation such as health and safety and employment law, improve client retention and raise business performance;

**employees** – to gain the skills that employers need to stay up to date with client demand and the latest techniques, equipment and products, and using qualifications;

**trainers** – to deliver qualifications with training support manuals, and to create successful teaching programmes that cover induction and initial assessment;

**learners** – by offering books and teaching guides directly related to their studies, and by providing advice on career paths and qualifications.

As a not-for-profit organisation, everything you spend with Habia is invested straight back into your industry.

Now you know what Habia does, find out more about how we can help you out:



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Careers in  
Hairdressing and  
Barbering  
England



## A Career in Hairdressing or Barbering

### What makes a good hairdresser or barber?

To become a hairdresser or barber you need to be a very special person. You will need to have a unique combination of skills and will also require a great deal of training. To be a competent hairdresser or barber you will have to possess an almost unrivalled level of ability in a vast array of skills.

You will have to be an excellent communicator. Not only with your friends and the people you know well, but with people from every age group, social background, ethnic background, occupation and gender.

- You should have a degree of artistic skill and flair
- You will have to learn basic rules of chemistry, physics, anatomy, biology, physiology and mathematics
- You will need a high degree of physical stamina
- You should be highly dexterous
- Your personality should be vibrant, sparkling, strong and interesting
- You should be diplomatic, sympathetic and have the ability to listen and communicate
- You will have to be prepared to undertake a long initial training and then to go on learning for the rest of your working life.

To find all of these qualities in a single individual is very difficult and that is why good hairdressers and barbers are unique.

Unique skills should be rewarded. The pay while training may be low, but it is often enhanced with tips and gratuities from clients. Once you qualify as a junior stylist or junior barber your pay will increase and further income can be made in the form of commission by selling retail products to clients. Stylists and barbers in top salons and those who progress to supervisory or management positions will earn even more.

In addition, as a qualified hairdresser or barber with further training and experience, there are further opportunities to diversify into other hairdressing or barbering related occupations. Some are in teaching and training, which attract high salaries and benefits.

Job satisfaction is a payment that can never be quantified. You will be working in a fast-moving, ever-changing fashion industry. Hairdressers and barbers love their work and gain enormous pleasure working with the public to enhance their well-being. As a hairdresser or barber, you have skills that will ensure job mobility, both in the salon and out in the rest of the world.

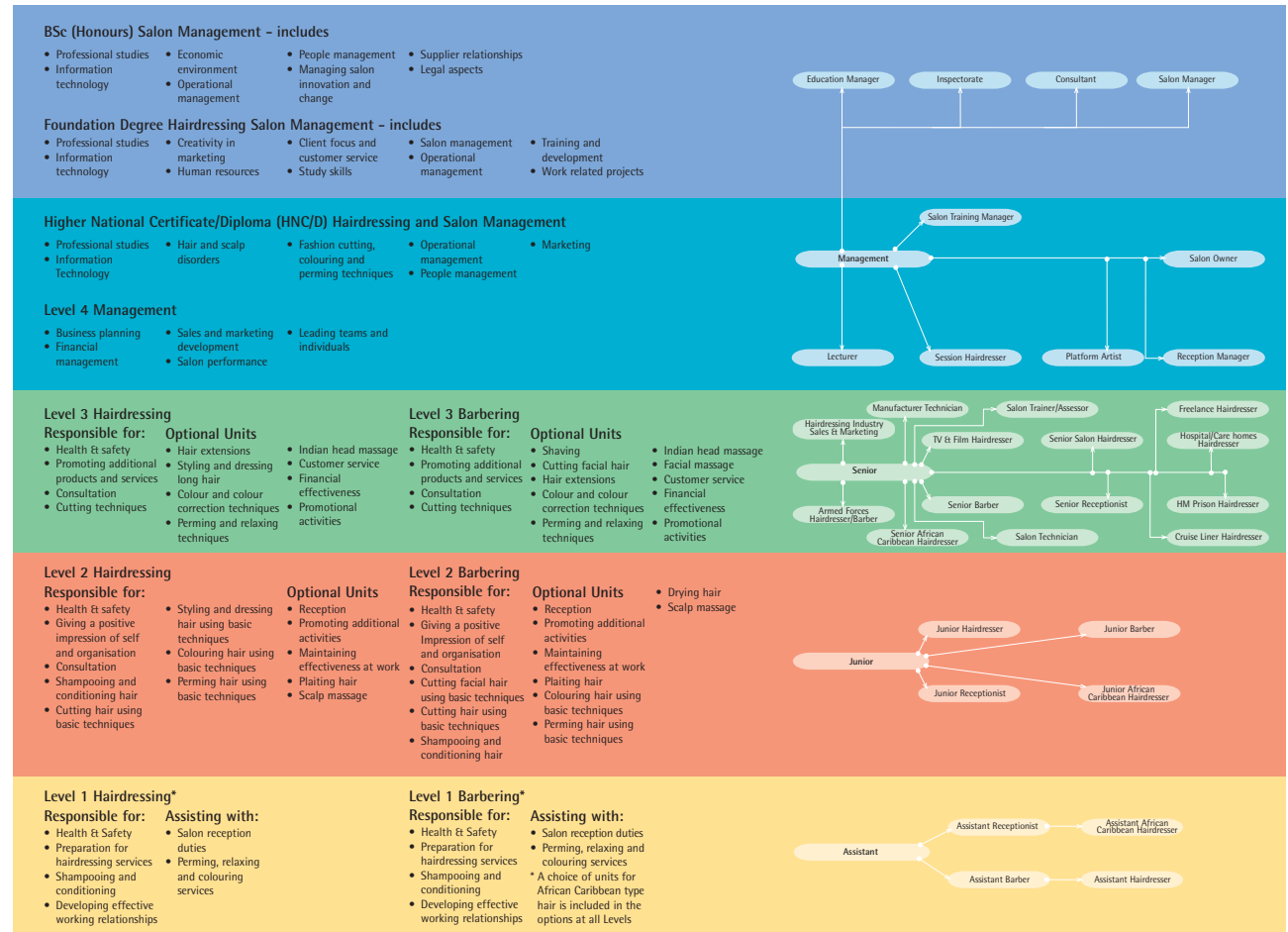
Hairdressing and barbering as an industry will be here forever; it has an amazing product. But, most importantly in today's society with job losses and failing industries, the product that hairdressers and barbers produce and the skills they have will never go away.

**The Hairdressing and Barbering industry - Facts**  
There are over 36,000 salons in the UK employing over 180,000 staff, with a turnover in excess of £4.8 billion.

# Hairdressing & Barbering Qualifications

Thorough training is essential for today's competitive market and National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) are qualifications about work, based upon standards developed by industry and commerce. They are about raising the standard of people's competence. That means training more people to high-level so that they can produce good quality products and services.

NVQs are placed in a framework of four levels starting with an introduction at Level 1, through the basic and essential skills required at Level 2, to the technical and supervisory skills at Level 3 and the manager at Level 4. On completion of these NVQ levels, hairdressers and barbers can move on to a Higher National Certificate or Diploma (HNC/HND) qualification or a foundation degree and higher degree level.



## Apprentices

Taking an Apprenticeship/Advanced Apprenticeship means learning while you are employed in the salon. As well as taking qualifications to become qualified in hairdressing or barbering, you will also cover key skills that are essential for a successful career.

In England the key skills are as follows:

	Apprentice	Advanced Apprentice
Communication	Level 1	Level 2
Application of Number	Level 1	Level 2
Information Technology (optional)	Level 1	Level 1