

What next?

Qualifications

Thorough training is essential for today's competitive market and National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs), or Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs) 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 a high level so that they can produce good quality products and services.

NVQ/SVQs are placed in a framework of four levels starting with an introduction at Level 1, through the basic technical and essential skills required at Level 2 to the more technical and artistic skills at Level 3 and the manager at Level 4. On completion of NVQ/SVQ in Nail Services at Level 2 and Level 3, nail technicians can move on to a Higher National Certificate or Diploma (HNC/D) qualification, a Foundation Degree or Honours Degree in Beauty Therapy or Spa Therapy.

Apprenticeships

Taking an Apprenticeship in Nail Services means learning while you are employed in the salon. As well as taking NVQs for Level 2 to become qualified in Nail Services, you will also cover key or core skills that are important for a successful career. However, if the results of your GCSEs, Standard or Higher grades are high enough, you do not have to take the key/core Skills. All apprentices can learn the Information Technology skills that will be needed by all nail technicians in salons in the future.

Apprenticeship programmes are also available in Beauty Therapy and Spa Therapy.

The learning programmes for Apprenticeships will vary, depending on where you study, so check the Habia website for the latest information and developments.

Guidance and advice

Where can I go to get free guidance and advice?

You can visit the Habia website for the latest guidance and advice on careers in the nail services industry.

www.habia.org

Careers Offices

Staff at Careers Offices provide information and advice on training opportunities in their region. They provide young people with information on the opportunities available to them, helping them to choose the right career. Careers Offices contain leaflets from

particular employers and training organisations, they also hold information about job vacancies.

Training providers

Local training providers can provide careers advice and information regarding suitable training courses available.

learndirect

'learndirect' provides impartial advice on careers, learning programmes and courses nationwide. learndirect can be contacted on freephone 0800 100 900 or www.learndirect.co.uk

| | Careers Office | Contact |
|------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| England | Connexions | www.connexions-direct.com Telephone: 080 800 13 2 19 |
| Wales | Careers Wales | www.careerswales.com Telephone : 02920 906700 |
| Scotland | Careers Scotland | www.careers-scotland.org.uk Telephone: 0845 850 2502 |
| Northern Ireland | Career Service Support Unit (CSSU) | www.delni.gov.uk Telephone: 028 9044 1784 |

standards • information • solutions

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

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

We also raise the profile of our industries through the press and media, and are the first port of call for organisations such as the BBC, Channel 4 and Sky TV on news items and background information.

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

To find out how we can help you, contact us at:

Habia also delivers solutions direct to:

salons - to help them understand complex legislation such as health & 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 NVQs;

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.



Oxford House, Sixth Avenue, Sky Business Park, Robin Hood Airport, Doncaster, South Yorkshire DN9 3GG
Tel> 0845 2 306080 Sales Tel> 0845 6 123555 Fax> 01302 774949
International Tel> +44 845 2 306080 International Fax> +44 1302 774949
Email> info@habia.org Website> www.habia.org



OMAT (Organización Mundial de Artes y Técnicas) Evaristo San Miguel 18. 28008 Madrid, Spain
Tel> +34 91547 3292
Fax> +34 91547 8402
Email> info@habia-spain.org
Website> www.habia-spain.org



A.E.S S.r.l.
Via G. Vittorio, 2/D - 42100 Reggio Emilia, Italy
Tel> +39 0522 616506
Fax> +39 0522 922002
Email> info@habia-italy.org
Website> www.habia-italy.org



Yuushin Building, 4F, 3-27-11 Shibuya, Shibuya - ku, Tokyo 150-0002 Japan
Tel> +81 35464 1481
Fax> +81 35464 1482
Email> info@habia-east.org
Website> www.habia-east.org



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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Photographs: Front Cover - from the *Art of Nails* by Jacqui Jefford.
Inside Pictures - RA Imaging for Habia





A career in Nail Services

What makes a good Nail Technician?

Artistic flair, skill and precision are the qualities you need to be a top nail technician. A service that was once considered to be a luxury is now enjoyed by an ever-growing number of people. The growth of nail salons can be witnessed on almost every High Street.

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 origin, occupation and gender.

- You should have a good degree of artistic skill and flair
- You will have to learn basic rules of chemistry, human anatomy, physiology and mathematics
- You will need to be patient and have attention to detail
- You should be highly dextrous
- You should be diplomatic, sympathetic and have the ability to listen and communicate well.

To find all these qualities in a single individual is very difficult. That is why good nail technicians are rare and rare skills should be rewarded. The pay while training may be low, but it is often enhanced with tips and gratuities from clients and will be increased further by commission earned through selling retail products to clients. Nail technicians in top salons and those who progress to management positions, or own their own salon, will earn even more.

In addition, as a qualified nail technician with further training and experience, there are opportunities to diversify into other beauty related occupations such as general beauty therapy or spa therapy.

Job satisfaction is a payment that can never be quantified. You'll be working in a fast-moving, ever-changing fashion industry. Nail technicians are artistic, creative people who love their work and gain enormous pleasure working with the public. As a nail technician, you have skills that will ensure job mobility, both in the salon and out in the rest of the world.

Nail services are part of an industry that will be here forever and provides the opportunity for an amazing career. But, most importantly in today's society, with job losses and failing industries, the service that nail technicians provide and the skills they have will never go away.

A career in Nail Services

What does a Nail Technician do?

A nail technician's role is to improve the appearance and condition of the skin and nails on the hands and feet. They will offer basic nail treatments such as manicures and pedicures including complementary hand and foot treatments but will largely be in demand for their skills in nail extensions and nail art. Nail technicians offer a full range of nail extensions such as gels, acrylics, wraps and free form sculptured nails to suit different client requirements. They are also highly skilled in all aspects of creative nail art including air brushing.

The Nail and Beauty Therapy Industry - Facts

There are an estimated 17,000 businesses employing nail technicians in the UK. As well as an increasing number of nail bars on the high street, you will also find nail services offered in beauty therapy salons, hairdressing salons and spas.

Career ladder - Nail Services

