

## The Role of the Beauty Therapist

Many people have a perception of a beauty therapist as someone who applies makeup and paints nails for a living. This couldn't be further from the truth. To become a fully fledged beauty therapist you must learn many different skills including, manicure, pedicure, facials, eye treatments, waxing, epilation, massage techniques, spa therapies, makeup, electrical treatments and business management, to name but a few.

These skills and the underpinning knowledge that you will have acquired on the way will provide you with a sound basis for employment. However you will be expected when working in a salon to contribute to the overall running of the business, develop further skills and share in the many other jobs that need to be completed in addition to providing treatments for the clients.

You will be required to clean and maintain the salon and all other areas, work on reception, booking appointments and processing payments, help with stock control, sell retail products, and contribute to the marketing of the salon as well as attending training courses to maintain and develop skills.

The hours can be quite long and often anti social as many salons now cater for everyone and have extended their opening hours and working week to meet demand.

You need to be a good listener and be discreet as many of your clients will open up their hearts to you as your professional relationship develops, but remember it is not your place to advise or counsel just be supportive and interested.

The major part of your role is providing treatments and the higher up and more senior position you hold, the more advanced the treatments become that you will be performing.

It has been recently reported in the press that the happiest people in their work are beauty therapists so in spite of the long hours and hard work it is a fulfilling career for those with an interest in working with people and improving their lives.