

Just the Job Information Sheet

Job title

Hairdresser/Stylist

Job description

Hairdressers do a variety of tasks including consulting with clients about the style or cut they want, cutting and blow-waving clients' hair, washing, colouring and styling hair, selling hair care products, treating and recommending products for hair and scalp problems, training other hairdressers and running their own businesses.

Qualifications required

- To become a qualified professional stylist you need to complete an apprenticeship and gain a National Certificate in Hairdressing (Professional Stylist).
- A minimum of three years secondary school education is needed to start a hairdressing apprenticeship. Useful subjects include art and design. You also need good literacy and numeracy skills (English and maths).
- Gateway is a programme that allows secondary school students to get a taste of the hairdressing industry while still at school. This is a good option for people interested in hairdressing and it can lead to an apprenticeship in some cases. Students who take part in the Gateway programme can gain a range of unit standards while getting hands-on experience in a salon.

General requirements

If you want to be a hairdresser, it's important that:

- you are friendly and polite
- you are able to understand and follow instructions
- you have good communication skills
- you are good at listening
- you have an eye for detail
- you have good time management skills
- you have English and maths skills.

Training costs

The costs of an apprenticeship are significantly lower than full time course costs. Costs include:

- Your one-off HITO Apprentice Training Application Fee:
 - If you start in Year 1 you pay \$350.
 - If you start in Year 2 you pay \$250.
 - If you start in Year 3 you pay \$200.
- You will need to purchase a Training Record Pack including a Training Record Book, HITO satchel and pen for \$50.

- HITO pays 75% of your training course fees to your training provider, and you pay the rest (25%), plus any additional costs for materials or products and credit fees. This price varies depending on training provider.
- If you transfer salons during your apprenticeship there is a \$120 transfer fee.
- Your final costs will be around your final assessments:
 - In Salon Assessment (Unit 2759) will cost you \$135 if the salon you work in has a relationship with HITO.
 - Final Assessment (Unit 2757) will cost you \$275 if the salon you work in has a relationship with HITO.
 - If you don't pass your assessments, you will have to pay for a resit.

Career path

A hairdressing apprenticeship will take approximately three to four years to complete. In an apprenticeship you will work fulltime in a salon and attend days of off-job training at the polytechnic/provider near you. As you are working, you will be paid a full time wage.

There are so many opportunities that await you once you have your National Certificate in Hairdressing. You can:

- Own or manage a business
- Train future apprentices
- Work as a Senior Stylist
- Work in films, TV, magazines or fashion shows
- Work on cruise ships or resorts
- Work all over the world

Salary range

- The minimum amount an apprentice can be paid is the Minimum Training Wage. This is \$11.00 an hour (before tax, as of 1 April 2013).
- Trainees not signed into a HITO training agreement (an apprenticeship) must earn at least the minimum adult wage. This is \$13.75 an hour (before tax, as of 1 April 2013).
- Employers may also provide incentives to staff, such as commission on retail sales.
- People who are qualified and have built up a good client base often earn a salary of more than \$50,000.

How to increase the chances of successfully entering this industry

- Experience in hairdressing or work as a hairdresser's assistant is useful in gaining an apprenticeship, as is any work involving contact with people.
- Gateway offers a pre-apprenticeship hairdressing programme for secondary school students. You can gain a range of unit standards, and it is a useful way to get background knowledge of hairdressing and some hands on experience before starting an apprenticeship.
- Your chances of getting a job as a hairdresser are good if you have qualifications and experience.

Other places to source information about this job

- Hairdressing Industry Training Organisation (HITO): www.hito.org.nz

- New Zealand Association of Registered Hairdressers (NZARH): www.nzhairdressing.org.nz/
- Careers NZ: <http://www.careers.govt.nz/jobs/hair-beauty/hairdresserbarber/>