

# BEAUTY, NAILS & SPA CAREERS:

## Senior Nail Technician

### WHERE TO STUDY?

You can study with a private training provider or at a college of further education. Colleges often have a September start date while private training providers will have year-round start times. Alternatively you could follow the apprenticeship route and these are often recruited throughout the year.

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 their website for more details. Want to study nail technology and not sure what courses colleges in your area have on offer? You can find colleges that offer iTEC and VTCT qualifications through our websites or this link: [www.vtct.org.uk/find-a-centre](http://www.vtct.org.uk/find-a-centre) or [www.itecworld.co.uk/find-a-centre](http://www.itecworld.co.uk/find-a-centre).



### STUDY FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME?

You can study full-time or part-time. Some colleges and training providers may offer part-time/evening courses that will allow you to balance your studies with your other commitments. This is something we recommend investigating to see what is offered in your local area.



### WHERE CAN I WORK?

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

- Beauty salons
- Nail bars
- Cruise ships
- Health spas
- Film, TV and advertising
- Self-employment



## WHAT KIND OF COURSES SHOULD YOU TAKE?

You can choose a shorter course such as an award or certificate to see if you like this area of study. There are many options such as the VTCT Level 1 Award in Nail Treatments or ITEC Level 2 Certificate in Nail Art.

You could choose an apprenticeship to gain experience and earn a wage while you learn. VTCT offer the following Beauty Apprenticeship

Standard: VTCT Level 2 Diploma for Beauty Professionals (Nail Services Technician).



A Diploma in Nail Technology will give you the skills you need to gain employment and will include manicure, pedicure, gel polish, nail art, nail enhancements as well as other essential skills such as client care and health and safety.

Employers recognise and value regulated qualifications so try to get onto a Nail Technician course such as the VTCT Level 2 Diploma in Nail Technology (Tech Cert). There are nearly 30 nail qualifications (at different levels) and of different sizes, so there are plenty of options.

You will then need to gain a Level 3 nail qualification to become a Senior Nail Technician. This requires roughly another year of study and will cover more advanced techniques.



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### HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?

Many ask "How long will it take to complete my studies?" To become a Senior Nail Technician you would complete a Level 3 qualification, but you would need to start with a Level 2 course.



For either a **Level 2 or Level 3** Nail Technology Diploma, you will be on a course from about September to the following June. There are usually around 380-400 study hours for the largest qualifications at both levels, which means it would be about 11-12 hours a week. If you go to a private training provider this will vary and may be more intensive allowing you to complete faster. If you choose an apprenticeship, you will be working in a salon and earning money whilst you gain your qualification.

### CAN I WORK WHILST I STUDY?

Many students work alongside their studies, but be aware you will have a lot of homework and studying to do as well as the hours you spend in college. 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 C.V. as well as it being an opportunity to learn even more about the industry you want to enter.



### HOW WILL I DRESS ON COURSE?

There will be strict guidelines on salon dress given to you by your college. This is not only to make you look professional, but for health and safety reasons. Your hair must be tied up if long, a salon uniform must be worn, low heeled and closed shoes, no jewellery, nails must be short and polish free, appropriate make-up, etc.



### WHAT EQUIPMENT WILL I NEED?

As a nail technician, you will need a kit. The college may supply a kit to use during class time, however, if you are able, it may be beneficial to buy your own so you can practice at home. Prices vary according to content, but a good quality kit will probably cost over £150. You will also have to buy a salon uniform and this will cost around £50.

