



Module 1: Introduction to Nail Technology

- The history of nail technology
- What a nail technician does
- An overview of the nail technology industry
- Why business skills are necessary for nail technicians

In this module you will learn:

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- The type of person who becomes a nail technician
- What a nail technician does
- An overview of the nail technology industry
- Why business skills are necessary for nail technicians

1.1: Nail Technology



Did you know that it has been around 5,000 years since the first manicure was performed?

While many of us would be forgiven for thinking of manicures as a recent invention, they actually stem way back to the ancient period.

Fortunately for nail lovers worldwide, nail technology has come on a long way since the days of Cleopatra. We no longer rely on Henna and questionable waxes. Instead, we employ a range of modern techniques to rapidly and intricately develop natural and synthetic nails respectively.

In a modern era, nails range from being simple and elegant like the French manicure, to bold and garish like well-decorated gel nails. Everyone has their own idea of what nails should look like, and as a prospective nail technician your duty is to cater to your client's tastes, no matter what you think of them yourself.

As you work your way through this nail technology course, that is exactly what you will learn to do.

Nail technicians are in demand.

As an industry that commands billions worldwide, it is enjoyed by men and women of all ages; with more emphasis on female clientèle. In order to succeed in both the employed and self-employed world, a typical nail technician needs to learn how to master his or her trade, remain aware of the hazards involved for clients, and know how to manage a business.

1.2: What do you Need to Become a Nail Technician?

In terms of personal attributes, you are going to need:

- **Patience:** Each job is intricate and delicate
- **Design:** As well as the basic designs you will learn when you start out, you need to learn how to create your own and draw inspiration from your clients to produce the nails of their dreams
- **Organisation:** This is particularly important if you take the management element of this course and use it to develop your own business. Organisation requires you to manage your marketing, your client base, and your staff. You may eventually reach a point where you have enough money to let others do some of this for you, but much of the responsibility rests on your shoulders as a technician.
- **People skills:** You will be working with people throughout the day and will need to use your people skills to develop a good reputation for yourself and maintain your business
- **Passion:** Being a nail technician involves hard work and requires dedication, and takes time to build up to where you want to be.

Nail technology is about much more than simply painting and sticking. You are going to learn about the anatomy of the skin, the anatomy of the nail, how to manage gel nails, basic nails, and much more. While all of this seems overwhelming, do not worry; it is broken down into small enough chunks for you to manage with ease, allowing you to progress with your nail technician dreams.

1.3: What does a Nail Technician do on a Daily Basis?

As a nail technician each day will be different as each individual client has their own different idea about what look they are trying to achieve.

Here are some of the different things you will be required to do in this line of work:

- Basic treatments, cleaning and filing nails. This includes manicures and pedicures.
- Applying false nails and extensions. Decorating both real and false nails.
- Checking for signs of skin and nail damage prior to beginning treatments.
- Maintaining hygiene control before, during, and after treatments.
- Taking care of nails that have chipped and broken, both false and real.
- Offer luxury nail treatments for both sexes, using different brands.

As well as applying nail polish, you will work with false nails, acrylics, fiberglass nails, gel nails, and more. You will learn how to make skin soft and supple. You will learn how to deal with clients of all ages and both sexes. By the end of your training, you will be an expert in making both hands and feet look beautiful.

So how long will you spend working each week approximately?

This can vary between individuals. Part-time positions are widely available, especially in salons that use technicians on the side. Then there is the option of a standard 37-hour work week, or you can go mobile or self-employed and determine your own hours.

As well as learning the basic techniques required to become a nail technician, you need to understand what the industry is about. Globally, the nail art industry makes billions. However, this does not always translate into high earnings in every locality, at least not automatically. If you do

choose to go self-employed, you are going to have to put in some work to make the most of your business.

It is worth bearing in mind that nail technicians work with hands as much as they work with feet. While the majority of your work will focus on hands, especially during the winter, clients requiring pedicures will come your way too. Clients find pedicures to be therapeutic, which means you need to adopt the right skills for making people relax.

1.4: Running your Own Nail Salon



We have all walked past them; nail salons with those intoxicating smells wafting out of the doors and row upon row of clients relaxing while manicurists tend to their nails.

If you envisage yourself overseeing such a venture, you are in the right place.

Running a nail salon is not as simple as learning the tricks of the trade, buying the relevant tools, and setting up shop. There are business laws to adhere to, red tape to get past, and a few marketing skills to learn.

It is therefore necessary to have a basic understanding of these areas. Without them, the time and money you invest into setting up your own salon is going to be pointless.

By the end of this course, you will not only learn a little about anatomy, you will understand techniques, how the nail salon industry works, and how to work your way into it as a self-employed or employed individual. Armed with the right knowledge, you can become one of the many successful nail technicians working throughout the UK today.

Module Summary

Nail technology has been around for thousands of years. Today, the industry is incredibly diverse, catering to the needs of both men and women.

A typical nail technician requires a blend of creativity, people skills, patience, and passion.

While the industry is booming, you are also going to need some business skills to make the most of your training.

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