

Job of The Week

Tattoo Artist

Key Skills

- Design skills and knowledge
- The ability to work well with your hands
- Concentration skills
- Excellent verbal communication skills
- To be thorough and pay attention to detail
- The ability to accept criticism and work well under pressure
- To be flexible and open to change
- The ability to use your initiative
- To be able to use a computer and the main software packages competently

Salary
Variable

Working hours
30 – 40 per week
Evenings/weekends

Aspire | Challenge | Achieve

Tattoo Artist

You can get advice about working in body art by speaking to tattooists in your local area,

Work

You could start as an assistant in a tattoo or body piercing studio. You would need to find a registered tattooist or body piercer, who is willing to take you on and train you.

You would learn alongside them in the workplace to get the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the job.

You'll need:

- an interest in body art and jewellery
- artistic ability
- a portfolio of your own artwork and design ideas to showcase your talents

You might be able to start as a customer service assistant in a studio, answering enquiries and booking appointments. From there, you could look out for trainee opportunities.

Other Routes

You could take training courses offered by studios and private training providers. You should research these thoroughly to make sure they're right for you.

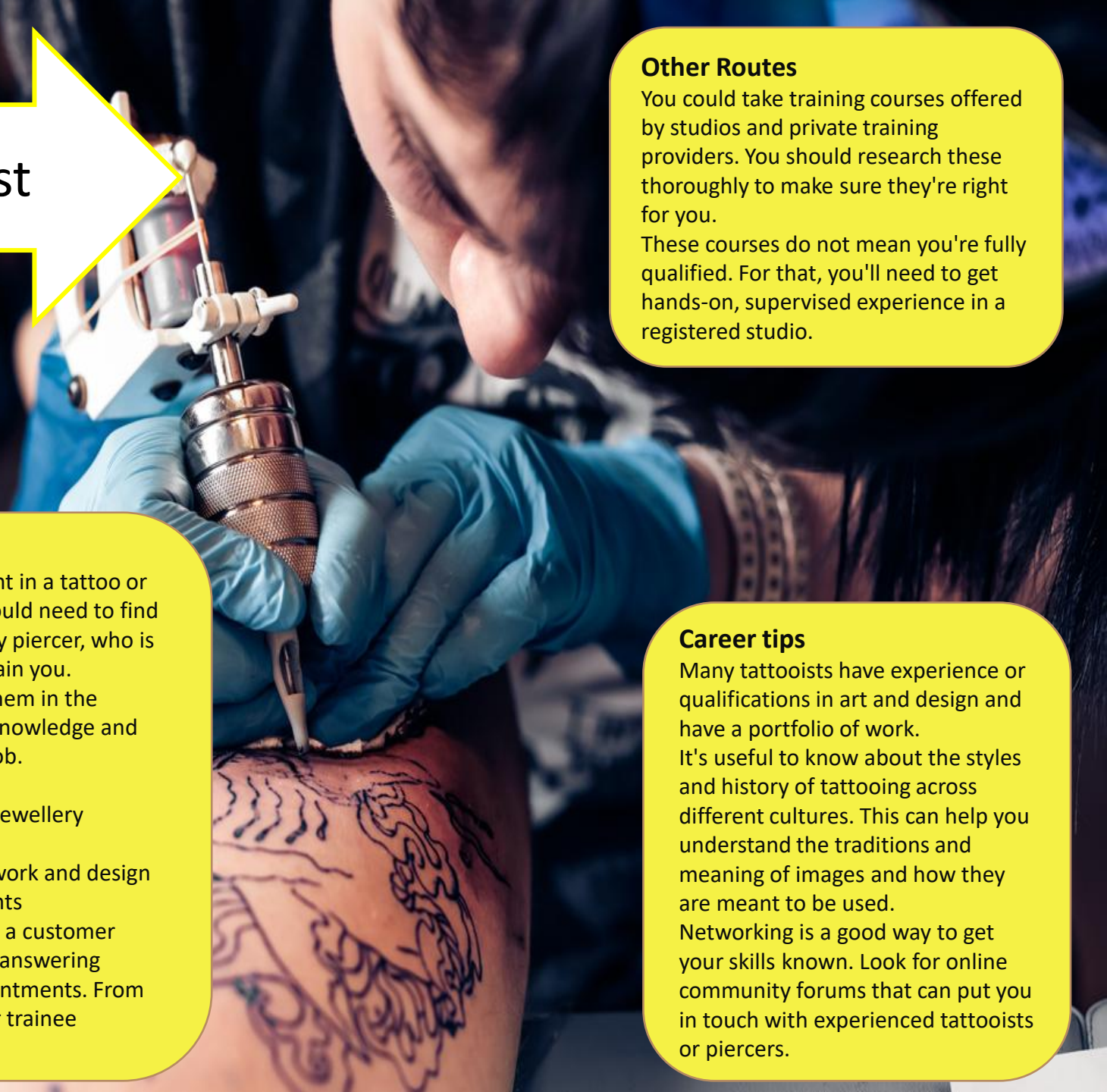
These courses do not mean you're fully qualified. For that, you'll need to get hands-on, supervised experience in a registered studio.

Career tips

Many tattooists have experience or qualifications in art and design and have a portfolio of work.

It's useful to know about the styles and history of tattooing across different cultures. This can help you understand the traditions and meaning of images and how they are meant to be used.

Networking is a good way to get your skills known. Look for online community forums that can put you in touch with experienced tattooists or piercers.





Career Path and Progression

With experience, you could become self-employed. This could mean 'renting a chair' in someone else's studio. With a business plan and sufficient funds, you could open your own studio and employ other piercers or tattooists, or rent out space.

Day to Day Tasks

- Speak with clients about their chosen design and how it can be done
- Check that clients understand that their tattoo will be permanent
- Copy the design onto the customer's skin, either by drawing freehand or using a transfer
- Follow the design outline with an electrically-operated needle, which injects ink under the skin
- Make sure all equipment is sterilised and clean after each job
- Give clients advice on how to care for their tattoo as it heals

Working conditions

You could work in a creative studio or at a store.

You may need to wear protective clothing.

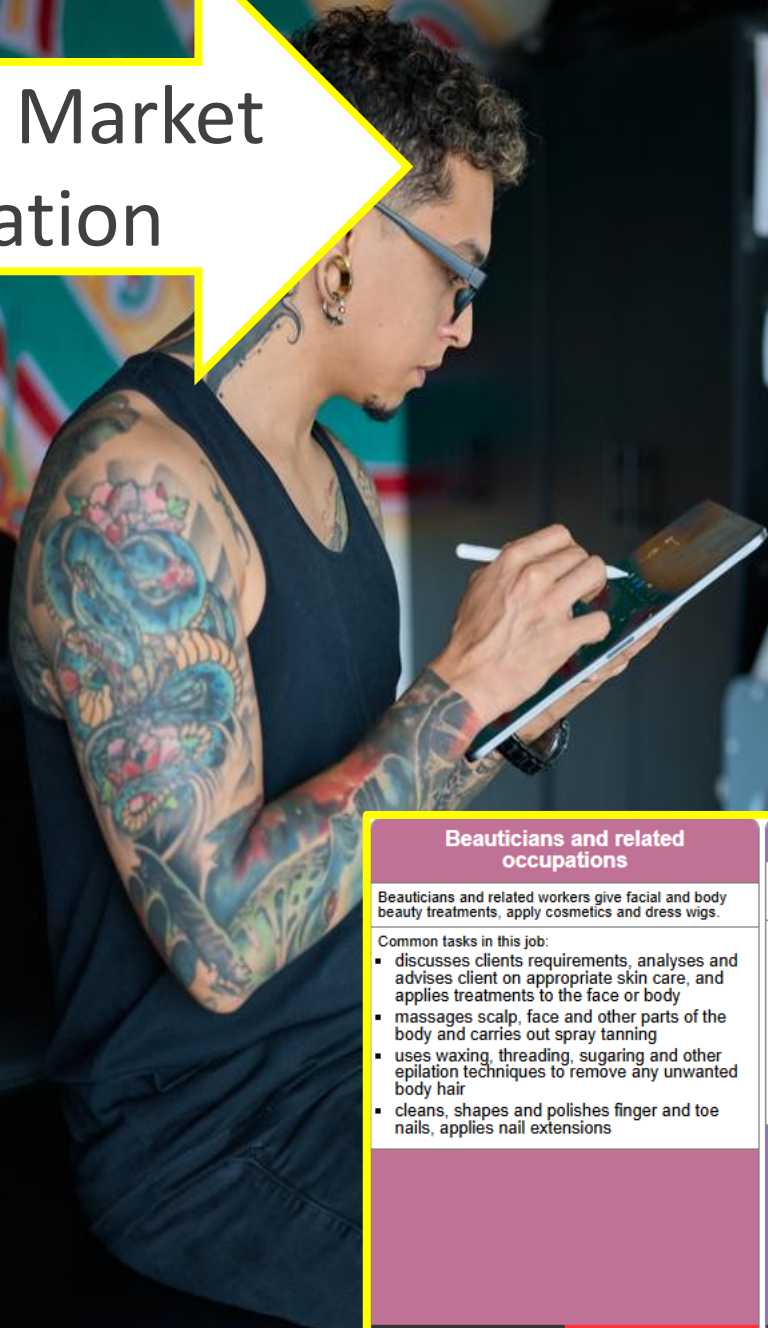
Labour Market Information

In the Careers section of the school website you can find the useful comparison tool the 'Labour Market Information widget'.

Use the widget to compare different job roles in any employment sector or relating specifically to the 'Job of the Week'.

Beautyicians and related occupations	Artists	Arts officers, producers and directors												
<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Weekly Pay £370</td> <td>Annual Pay £19,240</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hours/Week 35h</td> <td>Hourly Pay £11</td> </tr> </table>	Weekly Pay £370	Annual Pay £19,240	Hours/Week 35h	Hourly Pay £11	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Weekly Pay £820</td> <td>Annual Pay £42,640</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hours/Week 40h</td> <td>Hourly Pay £21</td> </tr> </table>	Weekly Pay £820	Annual Pay £42,640	Hours/Week 40h	Hourly Pay £21	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Weekly Pay £1,170</td> <td>Annual Pay £60,840</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hours/Week 38h</td> <td>Hourly Pay £31</td> </tr> </table>	Weekly Pay £1,170	Annual Pay £60,840	Hours/Week 38h	Hourly Pay £31
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<p>Workforce Change (projected)</p> <p>Growth 3.2%</p> <p>The workforce is projected to grow by 3.2% over the period to 2035, creating 3,300 jobs.</p>	<p>Workforce Change (projected)</p> <p>Growth 9.9%</p> <p>The workforce is projected to grow by 9.9% over the period to 2035, creating 5,500 jobs.</p>	<p>Workforce Change (projected)</p> <p>Growth 9.9%</p> <p>The workforce is projected to grow by 9.9% over the period to 2035, creating 12,200 jobs.</p>												
<p>You might find this job in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other personal service Food & beverage service Retail trade Education Membership organisations 	<p>You might find this job in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Libraries, etc Arts & entertainment Publishing activities Membership organisations Computer programming, etc 	<p>You might find this job in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employment activities Film & music Computer programming, etc Arts & entertainment Sport & recreation 												
More info	Clear card	More info	Clear card											

Labour Market Information



<p>Beauticians and related occupations</p> <p>Beauticians and related workers give facial and body beauty treatments, apply cosmetics and dress wigs.</p> <p>Common tasks in this job:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> discusses clients requirements, analyses and advises client on appropriate skin care, and applies treatments to the face or body massages scalp, face and other parts of the body and carries out spray tanning uses waxing, threading, sugaring and other epilation techniques to remove any unwanted body hair cleans, shapes and polishes finger and toe nails, applies nail extensions <p>Back Clear card</p>	<p>Artists</p> <p>Artists create artistic works using appropriate techniques, materials and media, design artwork and illustrations; and restore damaged pieces of art.</p> <p>Common tasks in this job:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> conceives and develops ideas and ways of working for artistic composition selects appropriate materials, medium and method prepares sketches, scale drawings or colour schemes builds up composition into finished work by carving, sculpting, etching, painting, engraving, drawing, etc. <p>Back Clear card</p>	<p>Arts officers, producers and directors</p> <p>Arts officers, producers and directors assume creative, financial and organisational responsibilities in the production and direction of television and radio programmes, films, stage presentations, content for other media, and the promotion and exhibition of other creative activities.</p> <p>Common tasks in this job:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> chooses writers, scripts, technical staff and performers, and assumes overall responsibility for completion of project on time and within budget directs actors, designers, camera team, sound crew and other production and technical staff to achieve desired effects breaks script into scenes and formulates a shooting schedule that will be most economical in terms of time, location and sets prepares rehearsal and production schedule for main events, design of sets and costumes, technical rehearsals and dress rehearsals <p>Back Clear card</p>
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Keep looking...

Use these links to learn more about our job of the week, consider the various pathways leading to the career, what you can be doing now to help yourself and other roles in the industry

Take a look at these short videos for inspiration...



[JOB OF THE WEEK - EPISODE #19 - TATTOO ARTIST](#)



[How to become a tattoo artist: where do I start?](#)



[A Day in the Life of a Tattoo Apprentice: The Grind Nobody Sees](#)



[TATTOO ARTIST | Make It Into: Health & Beauty](#)

Useful Websites

[tattoo, piercing and electrolysis licence.](#)

[How To Become a Tattoo Artist \(Plus How Much They Earn\) | Indeed.com](#)

[Manchester Tattoo Academy](#)

[Art and Design \(Graphic Design\) Tattoo Illustration HNC/HND - City of Bristol College](#)