

Title: **Case Study**  
**Hair & Beauty**  
**in the West of England**

**Rommel Houson** works as a stylist at Angela Gaudi Hair Design in Bristol and she really loves her job.

As well as being a qualified stylist, Rommel also specialises in doing Afro Caribbean hair – at the moment there’s a shortage of hairdressers with these specialist skills.

Why did she choose a career in hairdressing? “Because it was either that or sport – I’m equally good at both,” she says.

“I’m more of a hands-on person rather than a sit down and read a book, or sit down and write. And I enjoy sport, but I didn’t want to do it for the rest of my life.”

Rommel was a pupil at Ashton Park school in Bristol and left after taking GCSEs. She went on to City of Bristol College to take an NVQ Level 2 in hairdressing.

During her second year she went to work at Angela Gaudi’s salon on her day off to earn some money and gain work experience.

“This was a really good move,” she says. “Hairdressing training needs to be hands-on – you have to be in a salon seeing how it runs.”

After completing her NVQ the salon offered Rommel a job – she has worked there for over three years. This year she is taking a Level 3 Advanced Apprenticeship in hairdressing at Reflections Training Academy, where she attends part-time.

She says taking a Level 3 qualification hasn’t been too hard for her because her time working at the salon has given her experience and confidence.

“It would be quite difficult to go into it straight from Level 2,” she says. “It’s definitely better to leave it for a year or so to gain some background knowledge.”

“Having Level 3 will help me in my career – it definitely looks good on your CV. I love hairdressing and I think it’s a great choice because you can do it abroad.”

“In the long term I would like to travel and I have a really good chance of getting work – hairdressers are heavily in demand, particularly in Australia.”