



Skills & traits you need to be Makeup Artist

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Industry Common Questions and Answers



Make-up artists physically prepare individuals for appearances **in front of cameras** or an audience.



Other clients demand a slightly different kind of work to be performed. These individuals include those who need to be made to look as if they have landed on earth from another planet, or perhaps from another era, as well as the numerous extras who appear on hospital dramas on a weekly basis and need to be adorned with fake wounds.



These individuals include **models**, high-profile individuals who may be making speeches, **film stars**, and members of the public who wish to learn more about make-up.



Make-up artists also provide members of the public with lessons and tutorials, although this is a slightly less common feature of their role.



The **flawless faces** that we see on television on a daily basis are the finished products of work undertaken by **talented make-up artists**. These talented artists are equipped with **skills** that can transform the physical appearance of an individual and provide them with the confidence to appear in front of a camera or a live audience.

During these sessions, which may be relatively expensive, individuals are taught techniques and introduced to new ranges of make-up which suit their particular needs.



Skills & traits you need

- to be a successful makeup artist

Responsibilities

The typical tasks undertaken by make-up artists include:

- Deciding which clients to take on
- Deciding upon the desired physical outcome with each client
- Assessing and sticking to the budget
- Researching relevant techniques needed to achieve a certain look
- Ordering materials from suppliers
- Sourcing new suppliers for specialist items
- Making initial design sketches and drafting initial notes
- Constructing a timetable and plan of action
- Presenting these ideas to the client and other individuals involved in the project
- Making sure that the make-up will prepare the individual for each situation, including lights in studios
- Ensuring that the make-up fits with the other physical aspects of the project, including the costumes
- Making sure that the individual is not allergic to any of the products
- Applying the make-up to the client
- Explaining the process step-by-step if this is desired by the client
- Teaching the individual new techniques and showing them new ranges of make-up if desired by the client
- Making moulds of body parts and helping with the process of making prosthetics
- Fitting artificial items including wigs to the client

SIMPLE, FLEXIBLE AND FUN: THE BEST WAY TO STUDY PROFESSIONAL MAKEUP ARTISTRY

Our courses are cutting-edge professional makeup artistry courses written by some of the best working Makeup Artists in their field.

DISCOVER THE
SECRETS

Qualifications

If you want to become a Makeup Artist in Australia, you'll need to complete a Certificate III in Makeup. When completing a Certificate III in Makeup, you'll be required to complete a number of supervised training hours (similar to an apprenticeship) to help you **build up your skills**.

The entry requirements can vary, however you will usually need to have completed year 10 of high school.

Your training as a makeup artist will occur in a range of locations including **on-campus**, in purpose built educational **makeup studios** and **on-location**, to prepare you for a range of different environments that you might work in as your career grows.

You may choose to stop at a Certificate III in makeup, however many students then go on to **pursue more** specialist training for specific niches such as:

- Theatre Makeup
- Special Effects (SFX) Makeup
- Bridal Makeup
- Retail Makeup
- Fashion, Runway & Catwalk Makeup
- Editorial Makeup
- Television & Screen Makeup

IF YOU ARE A FREELANCE MAKEUP ARTIST, YOU MAY ALSO WISH TO CONSIDER TAKING A SHORT BUSINESS COURSE

It will help you learn the basics of marketing yourself and operating as a registered business.

As makeup falls under the health and beauty category, you'll need to be aware of the insurance that you're required to have to protect you and your clients if something goes wrong (for instance, if someone has an allergic reaction to a product).

If you are employed by a company as a makeup artist, your insurance and marketing will be taken care of by the company, however it is always looked upon favourably by employers if a makeup artist chooses to continually update themselves with **new training**, as well as staying up to date with the latest techniques and makeup trends.

The second option for those who wish to become a fully qualified makeup artist quickly or within a year is through full time study through a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) – Colour Cosmetics Academy.

Your personal requirements, how you prefer to study and your own financial commitments will dictate the type of course that will be best suited for you, so ensure to do your research well!

On completion of any full time study, you will be recognised with a national trade qualification for makeup.

Skills in order to be successful Makeup Artist

Creativity

Knowledgeable about make-up techniques and products

Originality

Confidence in own abilities

Diplomacy & Tact

Flexibility

Good communication and interpersonal skills

The ability to work well as part of a team

The ability to use own initiative

The ability to stick to tight budgets and be resourceful

The ability to remain calm under pressure

Working conditions

Make-up artists work irregular hours and may go for long periods without work. Shift work is a common feature of the job and weekend and evening work is also part of the role.

Make-up artists often need to work late at night and will not be able to leave until a project is completed, no matter how long this may take.

They spend a lot of time in studios and sets, so working environments and conditions differ on a daily basis. Studios may be relatively comfortable but set locations may be freezing cold.

Make-up artists spend a lot of time on their feet, so physical fitness is essential. Travel throughout the country and to foreign countries is common, since many large film or television projects use sets located in various places.

As a result of the long hours and importance of the role to a project, the job can be relatively stressful. However, most make-up artists very much enjoy their jobs and find their work rewarding.





Join the new breed of creatives

I will now highlight the skills and traits needed to become a successful

SKILLS AND TRAITS YOU NEED TO BECOME A SUCCESSFUL MAKEUP ARTIST

CREATIVITY:

Any profession with “art” in the title requires a creative imagination and a strong visual sense.

Makeup artists should understand the different shapes and features of a face and recognize how to highlight them.

Perception and visualization is important, as cosmetic application relies on the ability to mentally rearrange details of an image to create an attractive look without mistakes.

CUSTOMER SERVICE:

Most of a makeup artist’s day involves working closely with other people, like models, actors, photographers and clients or customers.

Makeup artists should be able to communicate with a variety of people to understand client goals and provide necessary feedback. Artists need to be confident and tactful when suggesting changes that may benefit a customer’s appearance.

DETAILED ORIENTATION:

Makeup artists must be able to complete their work under pressure without letting the details slip. Some jobs require extended periods of concentration to complete meticulous cosmetic requests.

Artists must be able to reason and solve problems, weigh costs against benefits, and design new ideas with a creative way to implement them.

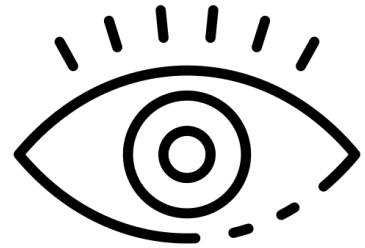
MANAGEMENT:

A makeup artist has to manage her time and the time of others.

You are in charge of analyzing each client’s desire and obtaining the equipment and products necessary to complete the job.

Particularly when first starting out, makeup artists must market themselves and manage their online and physical presence to gain clientele and build a strong client base.

Tips and advice to help advance your career as a Makeup Artist



1

NEVER TAKE ANYTHING PERSONAL:

Learn to never take anything personal and to remember to have fun! Keep in mind it's an art, and so know what kind of artist you want to be first.

This is the way you can find and develop your signature style.

2

NO HARD RULES:

There are no rules to makeup, but always try to learn new tricks and ways of expanding your craft.

Never talk back to a mentor or try to outshine the key artist when you are only an assistant.

If your work is good, it will be noticed. And always try something you think you are not good at to get better and perhaps discover a new talent.

3

SPEND TIME TO CREATE A PORTFOLIO:

If you aspire to a career in in Makeup then I would spend time working on a portfolio, and then call a few agencies to see if they might be interested in seeing your book. Another way would be to go to salons and see about assisting or find photographers who need makeup artists.

4

NEVER STOP PRACTICING:

For the beginning artist, but practice, practice, practice! Use your face to try looks on yourself every day. Try things you saw in videos and note areas you needed to work on.

You should also practice different methods to perform a skill so that you will know a hundred ways to do the same things. Never be afraid to try many different products.

Lastly, make sure you attend classes and conferences to get the insight from pro makeup artists and experts



READY TO BE A MAKEUP ARTIST?

Now that you know that you want to be a makeup artist, once you establish yourself and get qualified, then it's time to get yourself out there, put the hard work in and get yourself some clients!

If you're seeking employment with a company such as MAC or with a department store/chain such as Myer, Sephora, Mecca Cosmetics/ Mecca Maxima, take it one step at a time.

GET YOUR RESUME TOGETHER

Prepare an application (read more about that here), start networking and above all... practice your skills!

PRACTICE ON FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Put a call out in Makeup Artist Facebook group for volunteer models... you'll be surprised how many people are willing to let you practice your skills on them.

You get a portfolio piece, and they get to feel great for a night out.

On the note of portfolios, START COLLECTING A BANK OF IMAGES OF YOUR WORK

(the higher quality images the better, although when you first start out then good quality iPhone photos will also do the job) and find a creative way to display them. Many Makeup Artists have personal websites to display their portfolios so you may wish to do the same.

Even if you're looking to be self-employed or freelance, don't be afraid to get searching for jobs too – many makeup artist jobs are part-time and can help you build your portfolio.

There are plenty of jobs online so make sure to check sites such as Seek, Indeed or even Facebook Groups or Instagram.

BE PROACTIVE AND AT THE START OF YOUR CAREER

Don't be afraid to ask for opportunities at local beauty salons... if you don't ask, you'll never receive!



The sky truly is the limit

when it comes to what you can do with your career as a makeup artist – so whether you want to work in fashion, theatre, bridal; whether you choose to be freelance or employed by a company... use your imagination and get creative! After all, makeup artistry is fuelled by creativity!



TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR COURSES

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