

# Nail Technician

## Technical handbook 2023

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## WorldSkills UK

WorldSkills UK is an independent charity and a partnership between employers, education and governments. Together, they are raising standards in apprenticeships and technical education to enable more young people get the best start in work and life. They are leading the charge to ensure that all young people have equal access to high quality apprenticeships and technical education, by:

- inspiring young people through their careers advice resources, to choose excellence through apprenticeships and technical education as a prestigious career route on their path to reaching their potential, whatever their background.
- developing excellence in young people by testing and assessing their skills and knowledge against their peers through their national and international competitions programmes, improving their confidence and potential.
- innovating to mainstream global excellence to help improve the standard of teaching, training and assessment through international benchmarking to help young people, employers and the UK economy succeed.

They are also part of WorldSkills, a global movement supported by over 80 member countries, which celebrates young people achieving world-class standards in the biennial 'skills Olympics.

[This link](#) can be used to access more information about WorldSkills UK and the work it undertakes:

### Sector Overview

A Nail Technician is a specialist who tends to the care and improvement in the appearance of the client's nails, hands and feet. Nail Technicians have creative and artistic flair for nail enhancements but equally provide manicures, pedicures, nail shaping and general grooming, as well as offering artificial nail services including the application of nail polish and gel polish. Pedicures and the application of artificial toenails can also be performed.

This competition focuses on the **roles and talents of a Nail Technician**, bringing in creative and artistic tasks, which reflect current trends within the nail industry.

The competition focuses on the role and tasks of a Nail Technician carrying out a range of services, which reflect both current and traditional standards as well as industry requirements. This may include nail care, nail technology and nail art.

As a competitor, you will also be tested on health and safety, exceptional client care and communication skills. Ideally you are looking to demonstrate your specialist skills and technical knowledge to the highest level with a view to progressing your career further in the nail industry.

## Career Pathway

Working in a Nail Salon / Mobile technician.

Owning own business.

Cruise Ship.

Brand ambassador.

Social media influencer.

Level 4 Salon Management.

## Competition Cycle

Date	Stage
Feb - March	Registration
April	Entry
June	National Qualifiers
July	Announcement finalist
October	Bootcamp
November	National Finals

## Competition Overview

### About the Competition

This competition assesses the skills and abilities of competitors entering the field of {insert competition name}

This competition consists of:

- An entry stage, a remote assessment in which you must complete work in your own time and submit this for judging;
- A qualifying heat, which will be face to face
- You must attend and complete a series of tasks on a specific day, or a set of tasks that you will be sent and must be completed within a given timescale;
- A UK national final, taking place in November as part of WorldSkills National Finals.

### Core competencies

Competitors taking part in this competition should be able to demonstrate the following competencies:

Professional appearance, demeanour and attitude.  
Safe working practices.  
Effective interaction with the client.  
High level of technical and artistic skills and dexterity.  
Management of time allocation.  
Ergonomic working methods.  
Creativity.  
Interpretation and understanding written and verbal instruction.  
Idea generation to implementation.  
Working independently.  
Showing resilience.  
Patience.  
Interpersonal skills.

## Qualifications

This competition is mapped out to the following qualifications:

England, Wales, Northern Ireland

VTCT

Level 2 and Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Nail Services

Level 2 Diploma in Nail Technology (Technical Certificate)

Level 3 Extended Diploma in Nail Technologies (Technical Level)

Level 3 Diploma in Nail Technologies (Technical Level)

Level 3 Diploma in Nail Technology Studies

Level 3 Diploma in Nail Technology

City & Guilds

Level 2 Technical Certificate in Nail Treatments

Level 3 Advanced Technical Diploma in Nail Technology

Cidesco

Professional Nail Services Diploma

Qualifi

Level 2 Certificate in Nail Treatments

Scotland

SVQ in Nail Services Level 5

SVQ in Nail Services Level 6

This competition is mapped out to the following apprenticeship standards

Level 2 and Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Nail Services

## Assessment Criteria

For this competition the breakdown will help in how you can go from being competent in the skill to excellent and what the judges will be looking for.

Core Competence	Competent	Excellence
Professional appearance, demeanour and attitude	Being dressed in uniform with hair tied back. Dealing with your model and following instruction.	Helping, supporting and showing respect for all staff, models and competitors. Remaining flexible and open to change while being able to communicate with others to resolve problems. Being dressed in full clean, pressed uniform with hair tied back and away from your work area.
Safe working practices	Show a knowledge of how to work safely with your tools and products.	Show a knowledge and understanding of how to work safely with your tools and products and be able to answer questions asked by a judge or your client.
Effective interaction with the client	Ensure client understands the treatment you are carrying out.	Ensure client is comfortable, relaxed and fully understands the treatment you are carrying out.
High level of technical skills and dexterity	Follow the instruction in the brief and cover the areas stated.	Follow the instruction in the brief and cover the areas stated, while being able to add your own design interpretations and ideas.
Management of time allocation	Turning up on time.	Arriving early and prepared for your competition.
Ergonomic working methods	Ensure you have your work area set up prior to the competition start.	Ensure you have your work area set up prior to the competition with all your products and tools needed within reach and all checked to be in working order. Ensure you do not need to go back to your kit.

Creativity	Show an understanding of the competition brief and theme.	Show you have researched the competition brief and theme. With your research show your ideas in your work.
Interpretation of Idea generation to implementation	Show a written statement of how you understand your idea and how you achieved your result.	Use a moodboard or maybe a video stream to help show your original interpretation of the theme and brief and the steps you used to achieve your final result.
Showing Resilience Patience	Following the brief and working within all time frames stated.	Following the brief and using all allocated time to ensure all work is carried out to a high standard. Ensure you practice prior to competition and you allocate all your time.
Interpersonal skills	Being able to work and communicate with your client.	Helping, supporting and showing respect for all staff, models and competitors. Remaining flexible and open to change while being able to communicate with others to resolve problems.

## Entry Criteria

There is no limit to the number of competitors per organisation but organisations are strongly encouraged to use the pre-competition activity to introduce their competitors to (and prepare them for) competition work and to select their best representatives. Entries will be accepted from competitors who have achieved or be working towards a full Level 2 Nail Diploma qualification within the last two years and/or are enrolled in an appropriate programme of study towards Level 3 or up to SCQF level 6 Early registration is highly advised in order to identify preferred qualifier venue in the event of competitors reaching stage 2 and beyond. Places are allocated on a strict first-come, first-serve basis.

## Competition specific rules

Competitors must complete the registration in full in order to participate.

A completed registration is an indication that you have agreed to the following:

- a) WorldSkills UK Competition Rules
- b) WorldSkills UK Terms and Conditions
- c) Where relevant the specific competition rules

Please ensure that you are familiar with this documents ahead of any competition activity: [Competition- Rules-2021\\_v3.pdf](#)

## Pre-competition Activity

Before registering to enter students and apprentices to take part in a WorldSkills UK Competition, it can be helpful to enable them to practice, test and challenge their technical and mental skills by getting involved [in the pre-competition activity](#) <https://www.worldskillsuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Nail-technician-pre-competition-activity.pdf> , available on the bottom of the webpage.

As well, the following activities could be used to support prospective competitors to get a feel for what will be expected of them in a WorldSkills UK Competition, whilst still in an environment with which they are familiar:

- on and off the job training and work experience
- WorldSkills UK or other externally run competitions
- internal competitions e.g. internal to an employer, specially designed competitions - using WSUK competition briefs
- local competitions e.g. in colleges and training providers.

## Digital Badges



As recognition of the participation and achievement of learners who take part in the competition you will be awarded a Digital Badge from WorldSkills UK. This credential has been awarded to those who have participated in our competition-based training programme. In taking part in this programme there has been a commitment to developing technical, employability and personal skills to a high standard using benchmarked assessments, leading to higher skills

development. At each stage of the competition activity there has been personal and professional growth as well as developing skills, knowledge and behaviours in vocational and technical education.

The digital badges are sent via Credly to your email and can be shared on social media platforms and in your email signature. For a short outline of the value of Digital Badges, look at our short video at <https://www.worldskillsuk.org/digital-credentials/> (45 secs).

## Entry Stage

Stage 1 - Entry stage (photographic entry: normally of 2 tasks. Photographs should not be digitally edited or enhanced and should be competitor's own work, completed under competition conditions in order to best prepare for further stages). Successful candidates will be invited to Stage 2

## National Qualifier

Stage 2 - UK National Qualifiers 2 technical skill tasks are performed by competitors in a specific order, under strict timed conditions. The top 8 performers in the UK will be selected from the National Qualifiers and invited to Stage 3

## National Final

Stage 3 - UK National Finals ( A minimum of 3 tasks performed over 1 full day, under strict timed conditions).

## Judge's Top Tips

Prior preparation prevents poor performance.

Ensure you have read the brief and understand the brief.

Contact lead judge prior to competition with any questions.

It is vital that you arrive to your competition fully prepared and in good time for your briefing with the head floor judge.

Prior to your competition, ensure you listen and understand the information given to you and if you are unsure of any points ask QUESTIONS.

Points will NEVER be deducted for asking questions.

Research competitions.



Look at previous winner's work.

Practice practice practice.

Remember your tutor is there to fully support you in the journey take on their advice and support. Listen to feedback from your tutor and work from the feedback.

Bring spare products in case of leakages.

Check if using new products, they are not faulty.

Work from feedback from judges in the entry stage to prepare for the next stage of competition.