



MAKEUP ARTIST

JOB DESCRIPTION

Makeup artists work in the film, TV, theater, music, and fashion industries. They apply makeup and style hair for models or performers, whether they are trying to create a dynamic look for a model, a natural look for a TV host, or a dramatic image for a rock musician. In television or theater, they may work with production and costume designers to design prosthetics, create a desired style, or capture a historical period.



SALARY

Makeup artist ★★☆☆

Makeup stylist ★★★★★

INDUSTRY PROFILE

Many opportunities for freelance work • Employers generally based in large cities • High-profile makeup artists can charge high fees

RELATED CAREERS

- ▶ **FASHION DESIGNER** *see pp. 30–31*
- ▶ **COSMETOLOGIST** *see pp. 302–303*
- ▶ **COSTUME DESIGNER** Designs clothes and accessories that actors wear in their performances. Costume designers combine their own creative instincts with extensive research into the clothes and styles associated with a particular era or location. They must ensure that costumes are authentic, as well as comfortable for the performers to wear.
- ▶ **HAIRDRESSER** Cuts, colors, or shapes a client's hair to create the style they want. Training can either be on the job or at a technical school.
- ▶ **WIGMAKER** Creates wigs for a film, TV, or theatrical production. Wigmakers may work with a costume designer or director to decide on a specific look. They also design and create wigs and hairpieces for patients with medical conditions.

AT A GLANCE



YOUR INTERESTS Makeup and hair • Fashion • Art • Photography and videography • Design • Drama • History • Film and theater studies



ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS Certification in makeup or hairdressing followed by work experience at a beauty salon is the most common entry route.



LIFESTYLE This is a demanding job with no regular schedule. Working hours are long and can stretch into the night if working on a film or video shoot.



LOCATION A makeup artist works mainly in theaters, film and TV studios, or in the offices of commercial video companies. Overseas travel is possible.



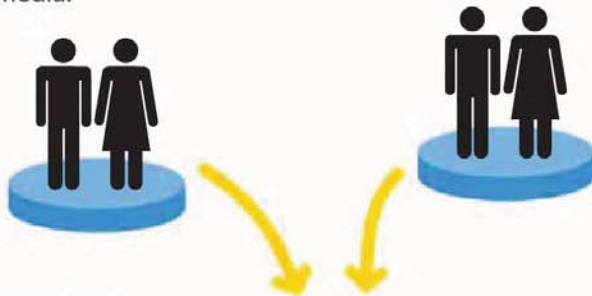
THE REALITIES Competition for work is tough, and success depends on experience and the ability to build a network of contacts in the industry.

CAREER PATHS

An aspiring makeup artist can gain valuable experience by working for amateur theater groups, or in student fashion shows or film productions. Training at college is useful and may help you get a job assisting an established makeup artist, where you can build up your knowledge and industry contacts.

STUDENT You can study for a certificate in makeup design, hairdressing, or fashion design, but will need specialized training to work in any aspect of the media.

ASSISTANT Opportunities exist to assist an experienced makeup artist, by maintaining a makeup station and freshening makeup between shots.



MAKEUP ARTIST

In most cases, your work is based around contracts that run for the duration of a film or other production. You can choose to specialize in a number of areas.



MAKEUP AND HAIR STYLIST

Oversees the look of hair and makeup in a film or theater production. The best film makeup stylists are in great demand and may win awards for their work.



WEDDING MAKEUP ARTIST

Provides customized makeup and hairstyles for weddings, proms, galas, and other events. They often run their own businesses.



PROSTHETICS ARTIST

Helps create special effects, such as fake wounds or fantasy characters, using sculpting and crafting techniques. Most of this work is for film or TV.



COSMETICS DEVELOPER

Works with a cosmetics company to develop new products. Cosmetic developers may run promotional sessions in stores, trying out new products on potential customers, or they can showcase products through photo shoots.

SKILLS GUIDE



Creative flair and distinctive style to stand out in this highly competitive industry.



The ability to create intricate styles of makeup and hair for prosthetics and wigs.



Excellent interpersonal skills to work calmly with actors and models, often under pressure.



Able to work well within a production team, and meet the production designer's brief.



Physical and mental stamina to cope with the long hours and heavy demands of the job.



Attention to detail, particularly when trying to ensure continuity during filming.