

# The Yacht Spa Academy

REDEFINING WELLNESS  
CAREERS AT SEA



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# Who We Are

The Yacht Spa Academy is a premier training institution dedicated to providing beauty and spa professionals with the specialised skills required to work in the luxury yachting industry. Our academy is designed to offer world-class spa training with a unique focus on the high standards and luxury expectations of spa services aboard private yachts.

At The Yacht Spa Academy, we combine foundational spa treatments such as massage therapy, facials, manicures, pedicures, waxing, and more, with yachting-specific skills. Our courses go beyond traditional beauty therapy by teaching students how to deliver these services in the unique environment of a yacht, ensuring that they can meet the expectations of high-net-worth clients with excellence and professionalism. We offer a range of courses suited for all levels of experience, from beginners entering the beauty industry to advanced spa professionals seeking to transition into the yachting sector. Our curriculum is carefully designed to ensure that every graduate leaves equipped with the expertise needed for success in the luxury market.

At The Yacht Spa Academy, we don't just teach you the skills—you'll also get personalised career support. Through our network of yacht recruitment agencies and luxury yacht management companies, we help our graduates secure positions as spa therapists aboard some of the most prestigious yachts in the world. Whether you're looking for full-time roles or freelance contracts, our job placement services are here to guide you every step of the way.



## The Founder

Holly's professional journey began over 16 years ago at Bournemouth and Poole College, where she first pursued her studies in beauty therapy. Since then, she has developed a diverse skill set across various areas of the beauty and wellness industry, including electrical beauty treatments, nail technology, and holistic therapies. Holly is also a qualified advanced aesthetician and yoga instructor.

Her career as a spa and beauty therapist has taken her to some of the world's most prestigious yachts, where she has worked with royal and celebrity clients. This unique path has allowed Holly to travel the globe, doing a job she loves, while achieving financial stability and enjoying paid time off to travel and spend time with her family.

The yachting industry has been transformative for Holly, offering a lifestyle that blends work with adventure. She has explored breathtaking destinations, formed lifelong friendships with crewmates, and experienced the close-knit community of life onboard. For UK residents like Holly, the tax-free earnings are a significant advantage, enabling rapid savings while enjoying a comfortable work-life balance. Some yachts even provide up to six months off per year, with full pay.

Holly's passion for the yachting industry and the opportunities it provides has inspired her to help others discover this life-changing career. Through the Yacht Spa Academy, she is dedicated to equipping aspiring yacht professionals with the skills and confidence they need to succeed. Holly's goal is to offer the guidance and support she wishes she had when starting out, enabling others to transform their lives just as she has.

### THE TOTAL CAREER STARTER



An intensive 4 week course that gives you everything you need to succeed in securing a job on a yacht

### YACHT SPA FAST TRACK PACKAGE



Best for those who already feel confident in their abilities in a future in spa therapy

### THE SPA CONVERSION COURSE



A conversion course designed for those with already spa knowledge, needing to gain confidence in their skills and knowledge of stewardessing duties.

### SPA MANAGEMENT COURSE



Designed for those looking to set up in their career, whether they already work on a yacht or looking to transition.

### BOOSTER COURSES



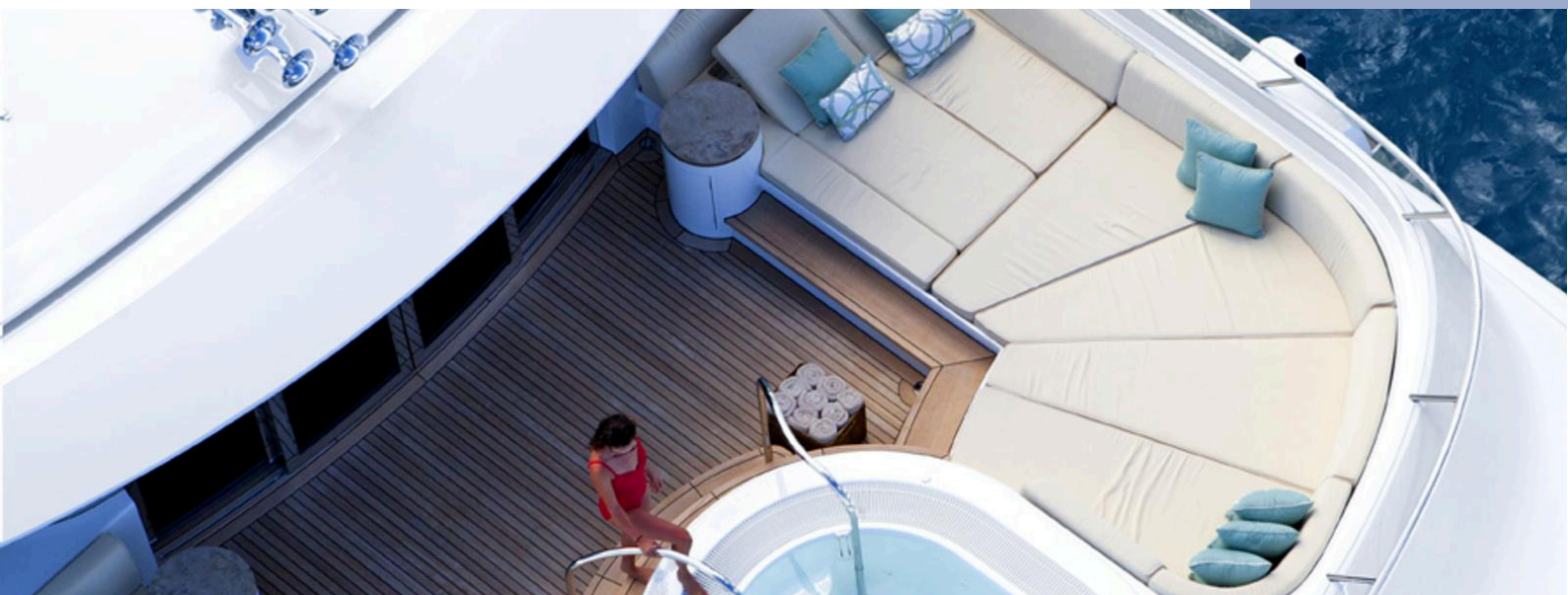
Short course are available as add ons or for those looking to expand their treatment range

### MASTERCLASSES



1-1 Masterclasses are for anyone looking to extra guidance or support in something they may already be qualified in but looking to build confidence

Our Courses



# Roles & Responsibilities

Working as a spa therapist on a luxury yacht is a dynamic and demanding role. While spa treatments like massages, facials, and manicures are part of the job, they often make up only 10-15% of your duties. The rest of your time is spent working as a housekeeper or service stewardess, maintaining crew and guest areas to seven-star standards.

A typical day begins at 8:00 a.m. with a morning meeting to discuss tasks, followed by cleaning crew areas and guest cabins, polishing silverware, and ensuring every detail is perfect. Short breaks, including a 15-minute tea break and a one-hour lunch, punctuate a busy schedule. The day wraps up with an evening meeting at 5:00 p.m., but you must remain ready for the unexpected.

If a guest requests a treatment, you'll quickly shift gears—changing into spa attire, setting up the treatment area, and preparing to provide a calm, professional experience. Spa spaces are often small, and treatments may occur in non-traditional settings, such as outdoor decks or lounges, requiring adaptability and preparation.

When guests are on board, the pace is fast, and expectations are high. During quieter times without guests, the focus shifts to deep cleaning, organizing, and preparing for the next charter. Being a spa therapist on a yacht requires versatility, professionalism, and the ability to seamlessly transition between roles, ensuring the highest level of service at all times.





Working on a luxury yacht is a career that combines adventure, travel, and the opportunity to immerse yourself in the world of high-end service. However, it's not as simple as packing a suitcase and heading to the nearest marina. Joining the yachting industry requires specific qualifications to ensure crew members are prepared for the challenges of life at sea. For roles such as a spa therapist, service stewardess, or housekeeper, there are essential certifications and skills that must be acquired.

The first step for anyone entering the yachting world is completing the STCW, which stands for Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping. This internationally recognised course is a prerequisite for all yacht crew. Often at sea for long periods, miles from shore, each crew member plays an important part in any emergency situation. Drills such as man overboard or fire training are usually completed each week on board. Over five intensive days, candidates learn critical safety skills, including firefighting, first aid, personal survival techniques, and understanding social responsibilities on board. The STCW certification is more than a piece of paper—it's a lifeline, teaching you how to handle emergencies and work as a cohesive team under pressure. This will need to be refreshed every 5 years.

Equally important is the ENG1 medical certificate. Every crew member must prove they are physically and mentally fit to work at sea, and this involves a medical examination with an approved doctor. For many, passing the ENG1 is a moment of validation, a green light signaling readiness to embark on their yachting journey.

For those aspiring to specialised roles, additional qualifications come into play. A spa therapist, for instance, needs recognized beauty therapy certifications in treatments such as massage, facials, and nail care. These must meet the high standards expected by luxury yacht guests. Beyond technical skills, therapists must be adaptable, as spa treatments often take place in unconventional spaces, like an outdoor deck or guest lounge, requiring creativity and preparation.

Service stewardesses and housekeepers also require specific skills to meet the demands of yacht life. Silver service training is highly valued, teaching the art of presenting and serving food and beverages with precision. Knowledge of wine, cocktails, and table settings is essential, as is an eye for detail when it comes to maintaining guest areas. Housekeepers must be experts in deep cleaning, bed-making with immaculate precision, and ensuring every corner of the yacht sparkles, creating a seamless five-star experience for guests.


At The Yacht Spa Academy, we will help you obtain these essential qualifications, through our network of industry connections. Preparing for life on a yacht involves more than obtaining certifications; it's about embracing a lifestyle. The yachting industry demands professionalism, adaptability, and resilience. Each qualification, from the STCW and ENG1 to advanced beauty training or service expertise, lays the foundation for a successful career. For those ready to invest in their skills and meet the industry's high expectations, the rewards are unparalleled—traveling the world, meeting fascinating people, and being part of an elite team in one of the most unique workplaces on the planet.


# Your CV & Job Hunting



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## Education

Bournemouth University  
Bachelor Degree of Luxury Travel  
2019 - 2023

Bournemouth & Poole College  
Travel & Tourism  
2014 - 2018

## Skills

- Deep Tissue Massage
- Facials
- Barista Knowledge
- Floristry
- Cocktail & Wine Knowledge

## Languages

- English
- Spanish

Breaking into the yachting industry might seem daunting, especially when many roles ask for "one year of experience." But don't let that discourage you. Yachts value candidates with the right attitude, personality, and transferable skills. If you've worked in hospitality, childcare, beauty therapy, massage, or hairdressing, you already have experience that applies to roles like stewardess.

At the Yacht Spa Academy, we specialise in helping you launch your yachting career. Our team will assist you in building a professional CV tailored to the yachting industry, ensuring it includes all the relevant information and layout necessary to stand out. Additionally, we'll connect you with our affiliated recruitment companies and provide insider tips and tricks to give you the best possible chance of securing your first position on a yacht.

Attitude is everything in yachting. Captains look for crew members with a positive, proactive mindset—someone who says "yes" to challenges and learns on the job. They don't want to hear, "That's not my job." A willingness to go above and beyond will make you stand out.

Equally important is personality. Life on a yacht means sharing close quarters with colleagues and interacting with guests daily. You'll need strong social skills and the ability to connect with people from all walks of life. A great work ethic ties it all together. In yachting, there's no room for clock-watchers. Once you've completed your tasks, ask for more, stay curious, and show enthusiasm.

Your CV is the first step to making an impression, and we're here to make sure it's perfect. A yachting CV is concise—no more than two pages—and tailored to the industry. It includes details like age, nationality, and a professional photo. That photo is crucial: neat attire, minimal makeup, and a friendly yet professional appearance are key. Your CV should show not just your qualifications but also your personality and interests.

Social media is also part of the equation. Yachts often research candidates online, so ensure your profiles reflect a professional image. Tighten your privacy settings and make sure your online presence supports the impression you want to make.

Breaking into yachting is about more than just qualifications. With the right attitude, skills, and presentation—and the support of the Yacht Spa Academy—you can overcome the experience barrier and launch a rewarding career in this exciting industry.



The yachting industry is renowned for its competitive salaries, even for entry-level positions. For those entering the industry, the financial opportunities are significant, and the unique perks of living and working aboard a luxury yacht make it an attractive career choice. With tax-free earnings for UK residents, tips, bonuses, and opportunities for professional development, building a career in yachting is not only exciting but also highly lucrative.

A junior stewardess typically starts with a salary of around €2,500 per month. However, for those with additional skills, such as massage or beauty therapy, starting salaries can rise to €3,500 or more. The earning potential increases significantly as crew members advance in their careers. For instance, Spa Managers can earn as much as €78,000 annually while working only six months a year on a 2-2 rotation, which offers two months on board followed by two months off, fully paid. Increasingly, yachts are also offering junior crew rotations, providing up to three paid months off per year.

Beyond the monthly salary, working on a yacht comes with minimal living expenses. All toiletries are supplied, laundry is taken care of, and crew members live on board, meaning there are no rent or utility costs. When combined with the fact that you're traveling to some of the most beautiful destinations in the world, the savings potential is immense. Many crew members find it possible to save a significant portion of their earnings, making yachting an ideal career for those looking to build financial stability.

Tips and bonuses add another layer of financial reward. Even on private yachts, where guests don't pay charter fees, captains and owners often provide bonuses as an incentive to encourage crew longevity and maintain morale. On charter yachts, tips from guests can range from a few thousand to tens of thousands of euros, depending on the length and nature of the charter. These additional earnings can significantly boost an annual income.

Yachts also frequently invest in their crew's professional development. Many vessels have budgets allocated for additional training, which is particularly valuable for spa therapists who must stay up to date with new technologies, products, and treatments. This not only enhances the crew member's skill set but also adds long-term value to their career.

While earnings are tax-free for UK residents, it's important to note that crew members are still required to complete annual tax returns. Specialist maritime accountants, such as those partnered with the Yacht Spa Academy, can assist with this process, ensuring compliance with all relevant regulations.

The financial and professional benefits of working in the yachting industry are unparalleled. From competitive starting salaries to generous tips and bonuses, tax-free earnings, and opportunities for ongoing professional development, a career in yachting is both rewarding and sustainable. Whether you're just starting out or aiming for senior roles like Spa Manager, the potential to build wealth and achieve financial freedom while traveling the world is a reality for those in this dynamic and exciting industry.

## The Earning Potential



# Life On Board

## What It's Really Like to Live and Work on a Yacht

Living and working on a yacht offers an incredible lifestyle of travel, adventure, and luxury. However, finding the right yacht is key to your success and happiness. Smaller vessels often mean longer hours during guest trips but more frequent time ashore, while larger yachts provide better amenities like gyms and lounges, though they may come with stricter rules and curfews.

Sharing a cabin is a part of life onboard, often leading to lifelong friendships. Meals are buffet-style with dietary options available, and the crew mess is stocked with snacks. Some yachts even organize activities like beach club days or crew dinners to build camaraderie.

Itineraries vary greatly—some yachts explore remote destinations like Antarctica or French Polynesia, while others follow the Mediterranean-Caribbean seasonal route. Long crossings can feel repetitive, but activities like movie nights or pirate-themed initiation ceremonies help create lasting memories.

At the Yacht Spa Academy, we support you during this transition into yachting. From building the perfect CV to connecting you with recruitment affiliates, we ensure you're well-prepared to secure the right position. Once onboard, you'll benefit from ongoing support within our academy's community, offering guidance, resources, and a network of like-minded professionals to help you thrive in your career.

Yachting offers an exciting lifestyle for those willing to work hard, with unparalleled travel opportunities, strong camaraderie, and a community ready to support you every step of the way.



A career in yachting offers unparalleled opportunities to travel the world, earn competitive salaries, and work in luxurious environments. However, breaking into this competitive industry requires specialized skills and training. The Yacht Spa Academy, the only training institution of its kind in Europe, is uniquely positioned to help you succeed.

We provide tailored training that combines spa expertise with essential yachting knowledge, ensuring you're prepared for the unique challenges of working on board.

From performing treatments in small spaces to adapting to high-pressure environments, our programs give you a competitive edge in a growing niche.

Our support goes beyond training. We help you craft a professional, industry-specific CV, connect you with recruitment affiliates, and provide ongoing guidance through our academy's community. With our comprehensive support, you'll have the confidence and skills to secure your first position.

As the only academy in Europe specializing in yacht spa training, we are your gateway to a life-changing career. Join us, and let us help you set sail on your journey to success.

Why Us?

