

## TGI College Beauty student

17 years old

"I love this. I love making people feel good. I love the makeup, the creativity - it's what I've always wanted to do, and I have dreamt about for the longest time. But when I started College, I nearly didn't make it past the first term. I have always dreamed of being a makeup artist - you know, maybe in films or TV. My parents are really supportive and want that for me too but I have commitments at home. Both Mum and Dad are really sick, Dad uses a wheelchair and Mum, well, what hasn't she got?"

They have tried really hard to make sure that we are all loved and cared for, but since Mum got worse it's up to me, I sort out my younger brother - he is 14, and twin sisters who are 12, I do the family food shop each week, washing, help with school work and generally just look after them evenings and weekends. At night time I sort them out, make tea and then Mum needs help and Dad needs support - it's all down to me, but that is what families do right?

They encourage me, they really do. I had a part time job offer from a local salon. It was great! I really enjoyed it and it really helped having that extra money coming in, but when Mum got worse I kept having to call in sick to help my brother and sisters and, in the end, I had to give that job up as I didn't want to keep letting them down. Mum and Dad know once I have finished my course that I will need to work, but by then my brother and sisters will be a bit older and be able to help more. Between us we will manage.

I knew the course had kit costs, and that there was a London trip to a great show, with loads of ideas and bits for salons. I suppose I just hoped somehow we would manage. The kit was expensive, Mum put aside a small bit each week but it wasn't enough, now I'm borrowing stuff from College and my course mates, but this can't go on for the whole course, it's just not professional. It was bad in the first term, I just felt so lost because I didn't have the right kit and had to wear a borrowed uniform from College. The trousers were a bit short but I made do. I nearly left the course and if it hadn't been for the College team who are so supportive, I know I would have left.

But now there is that trip, Our tutor told us about it and it just sounds fantastic, two nights in London, the Professional Beauty Show with loads of exhibits and a chance to see lots of suppliers and potential employers, then visiting a big makeup studio, seeing a show and just being off island. I haven't ever been off island, so London is a world away.

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The group is so excited about it. Then we heard how much it was going to be and I knew I couldn't go. That kind of cost isn't just difficult, it's impossible. Every penny at home is accounted for - of course we need food, bills and stuff for my brother and sister and Mum and Dad. There just isn't any spare at all. I know my coursemates will send me pictures and I will hear their stories, but it just isn't the same as going myself.

Oh, well, I better get back to revision. I have an anatomy and physiology exam soon, and I want to get a good mark. I know Mum and Dad will be really proud."