

Beautiful career

By HELEN MORROGH

IF there's one thing people aren't willing to cut back on during the recession – it's how much they spend on grooming.

The beauty industry is still booming and there are plenty of courses available to help you enter it.

And one of the most recognised places you can take a course is at the Irish Academy of Beauty and Massage.

This is an international accredited academy – and there are no qualifications required to take any of the courses.

The academy is a family-owned business, set up by Derek O'Kelly and his fiancée Veronica Clinton. It has been in operation for eight years and Derek says it's continuing to grow.

He revealed: "Even in the downturn in the economy we've expanded. Once people have had a taste of pampering themselves it will be a long time before they stop!

"So it's still a great area to train in if you're looking for a change in careers."

The academy offers a wide range of beauty and massage-related courses and services for those at the start of their career right up to business owners.

Courses can be studied part-time and range from one-day workshops through to certificate and diploma programmes.

The core programme can be taken part-time over a nine-month period, whereby students can attend classes two evenings a week or one full day a week.

The programmes require no prior knowledge or qualifications and some of the courses enable graduates to start earning money after one day of training.

Courses on offer include holistic massage, anatomy and physiology, teacher training, beauty specialist (includes make-up, waxing, manicure and pedicure and skincare and eye treatments), make-up, spray tanning, nail technology, advanced waxing, and laser training.

Training in the beauty field can provide for a versatile career, allowing you to work in spas and salons, become a sales rep or even work on a cruise liner. Derek said: "There's so many off-shoots for what you can progress onto."

● For more information on the courses available and a list of prices and start dates, log onto www.academy.ie.

