



worldskills
UK Alumni

Charlotte Burford: Beauty Therapy

Competed in: WorldSkills Calgary 2009 – Team UK
Awarded: Bronze medal
Home town: Penkridge
Region: West Midlands
Date of birth: 24/07/1990
Age at competition: 19
Employer: Tranquility at Esporta Health Club Stafford
Learning provider: South Staffordshire College

Qualifications

- Studying towards Level 3 certificates in Indian Head Massage, Aromatherapy, Fashion and Photographic Makeup
- NVQ Level 2 & 3 in General Beauty Therapy

City & Guilds
Qualified



What was your route into Team UK?

Charlotte started her competition experience whilst at college. Charlotte's tutors put her forward for the regional WorldSkills UK competition because of her outstanding performance at college. An exceptional performance from Charlotte at both the regional and national competitions secured her a place in the WorldSkills selection process.

Charlotte continued to impress the judges during the Squad and Team Selection competitions and won herself a place in Team UK.

Why did you choose to get involved with WorldSkills?

Charlotte immediately saw the potential benefits from competing at WorldSkills and grabbed the opportunity with both hands.

"It seemed like a really interesting and unique opportunity. The training and preparation leading up to the competition would also help me further my career."

What training did you undertake as part of your journey to WorldSkills and what impact did this have on your life?

Charlotte spent a great dealing of time travelling to all corners of the UK developing her skill level and techniques. The intensive training even took her to Canada to test the actual products she would be using during the WorldSkills Competition in Calgary.

"The training was fantastic! It was really hard work and I didn't have much of a life during it but it was so beneficial and I learned so much in such a short amount of time."

What was WorldSkills like?

"It was fantastic, I can't even begin to describe how good it was. It was great to meet other competitors from around the world that shared my passion and were dedicated to their skill."

What did you have to do during the competition?

During the 22 hours of competition Charlotte completed a total of 8 modules. The modules covered all aspects of the beauty therapy skill including manicure, facials, massage, waxing and make-up. The competition modules are designed by the WorldSkills experts and are dependent on the products used in the host country.

Who inspired you during your journey to WorldSkills?

"Everyone that helped during my training really inspired me to develop my skills and perfect my techniques. Jade Kidd and Jenna Bailey, who are both previous WorldSkills competitors, were also a great source of inspiration. Hearing about their own fantastic experiences really encouraged me to do my best in the competitions."

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What did being part of Team UK and competing at WorldSkills mean to you?

"It meant everything to me. I made some really good friends in the team which made the experience even better. It was a once in a lifetime opportunity and a real honour to represent the UK."

How did it feel to win the Bronze medal?

Charlotte had no idea of her progress during the competition because of the way in which the judges collect the marks.

"It was unbelievable. It was such a surprise winning the medal as I didn't think I had done that well during the competition."

What has competing done for you both personally and professionally?

After returning from the competition Charlotte started a new job at one of the colleges she trained at. She is now training other young people, passing on her knowledge and experience.

What is the dream?

"I intend to make the most of every opportunity that presents itself. I'm hoping to do a bit of travelling but when I return I really want to become a lecturer at college."

Would you encourage others to get involved in WorldSkills?

"Yes, it's an amazing opportunity. You are able to learn a lot of new skills which is great for your career. You also get to experience new things and really grow as a person."

What do you think of the event being held in London in 2011?

Charlotte is really excited about the potential benefits the competition will have.

"I think it will really put vocational skills on the map and give young people more options. I don't think young people are aware of the opportunities out there and simply settle for doing an office job."



For more information about the WorldSkills, UK Alumni, contact the UK Skills communications team:
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