



# SEA-side salon speak

London CND SEA **ANNA LEE** exposes two of her latest tech triumphs

**T**his month, I'm proud and happy to introduce two members of the SEA community who attended my CND 14-days Complete Novice course and have now graduated as certified CND nail techs.



### Jaycelyn Leong

My name is Jaycelyn and I'm Malaysian Chinese. I have always been interested in nails and eager to know more. I decided to book onto the

CND course because I wanted a change in my life. I'm looking to start my own business doing something I love and the flexibility of a career in nails is attractive, as I no longer want to work in an office.

I found out about the course through a friend. At first, I was worried that my lack of English would be a barrier, but then later found that a Chinese CND ambassador who spoke my language in fact teaches the course!

The course I chose is slightly more expensive than others I'd researched, so I attended with high expectations. I wanted to learn everything about nails and the nail industry. Before starting, I was nervous, yet also excited. On the first day, we were asked to introduce ourselves; I found this quite daunting because I'm a shy person. But as the day went on, I became more and more comfortable and by the end of the course, I had become friends with the other students.

The course was like a rollercoaster ride, there was so much to learn and take in. I enjoyed the theory but the practical part was my favourite. It was great getting to know all the products, their uses and function. The course was definitely worth the money. I graduated full of knowledge and, although my technical skills are not that great yet, my knowledge of the products, systems, the

business and the theory have been digested well. It's given me a firm foundation to realise my ambition of starting up my own salon in the future.

I understand there is still prejudice against SEA nail techs in the UK, but I'm proud that I am Chinese and able to qualify as a CND nail tech just like any other person from any other culture. I highly recommend and encourage other SEAs to do the same if they are serious about their nail career. If you never try, you will never know!

I feel CND has done a great job employing a Chinese ambassador to help us. Anna is not only knowledgeable, she's also kind and approachable, which really helped.



### Winnie Ho

My name is Winnie. I live in London, but I'm originally from Hong Kong. I became interested in nails because the freedom of working for myself

was appealing. I decided to book onto the CND course because it's professional and accredited, so I knew I'd get the best training and in turn I could then deliver the best service to my clients. I heard about the course from a friend and we booked on together.

After researching online, we soon realised that many top techs tend to be CND accredited. The good thing about this course was that it was suitable for beginners and would teach me everything from the nail business to correct technical skills. Before starting I was nervous as I'm not fluent in English and thought this was an area where I would experience problems.

There was a lot to learn, such as the structure of a nail, products, techniques and application methods. At one point, I found myself falling behind some of the more experienced people on the course but my ambassador, Anna was very patient and spent time with me so I slowly caught up. I felt the course was definitely value for money, as I gained so much knowledge. I never expected to learn as much I did.

I now plan to build on my knowledge and gain experience. I've not perfected the techniques, but I know that with time and practice I will gain the confidence and experience to deliver a quality service to my future clients.

It's unfortunate that nail techs in the UK are not well regulated and people can operate without proper qualifications. This has led to bad customer experiences and a negative stereotype on some parts of the industry. SEA salons tend to be considered as inferior, therefore I feel proud to be Chinese holding a CND qualification. I would encourage other SEA people that are considering a nail tech career to enroll with CND, as its standards are high. Having Anna as my ambassador definitely helped me, the advantage of having an educator that speaks Chinese and understands my culture helped to bring out the best in me. I intend to return to CND education in the future for my Masters courses and hope to one day open my own salon. **S**

