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Welcome

Welcome to Cosmetic Bars & Waterless Formulation

Real cosmetic science. Made simple.

Creating a beautiful cosmetic bar involves more than combining ingredients and pouring them into a mould.

Behind every effective shampoo bar, conditioning bar, moisturising bar and cold process soap is an understanding of ingredient functionality, product structure and performance.

At The Cosmetic Formulator, we teach you the science behind these products in a clear, practical and genuinely enjoyable way.

Through engaging video demonstrations, professional formula cards and our signature Think Like a Formulator lessons, you'll learn not only how to create four distinctive products, but why their formulas work.

Discover how to select ingredients, understand their interactions and make informed adjustments to achieve different results.

Don't just follow recipes. Learn to formulate your own.







Why Foundation Knowledge Comes First



The Science Behind Exceptional Cosmetic Bars:

A successful cosmetic bar needs more than an attractive appearance.

Its ingredients must work together to achieve the right structure, texture, performance and user experience. Professional formulators consider:



- Ingredient functionality: What each material contributes to the product.
- Lipid selection: How oils, butters and other lipid materials influence texture and performance.
- Product structure: What makes a bar firm, soft, conditioning or suitable for its intended use.
- Ingredient compatibility: How materials interact within a formulation.
- Manufacturing methods: How processing influences the finished product.
- Safety and performance: How to select ingredients responsibly and evaluate product behaviour.

Without this understanding, creating or adapting formulas becomes guesswork. We teach you to understand the science, so you can formulate with purpose and confidence.

ABOUT ME

Hello, I'm Ashleigh, a cosmetic chemist based in the UK and founder of The Cosmetic Formulator. I created TCF because I believe everyone passionate about cosmetic formulation deserves access to credible, practical and affordable scientific education. My goal is to make complex cosmetic science easier to understand and genuinely enjoyable to learn, without unnecessary academic complexity.





ASHLEIGH ELIZABETH

Cosmetic Chemist

The beauty industry is full of misleading claims about ingredients, particularly natural versus synthetic materials. I believe good formulation should be guided by science, not fear or marketing trends. Through TCF, I want to help you understand ingredients, make informed decisions and develop the confidence to think like a formulator. Real science. No scaremongering. No unnecessary restrictions.

Our Educational Philosphy

Serious Science. Straightforward Teaching. Cosmetic formulation can be complicated. Learning it doesn't have to be.

Our courses combine credible scientific education with clear explanations, engaging demonstrations and practical formulation exercises.

Rather than simply giving you recipes, we teach you to understand the science behind them.

Throughout this course, you'll explore:

- Cosmetic ingredient functionality.
- Ingredient safety and responsible use.
- Lipid science and ingredient selection.
- Product structure and performance.
- Different solid formulation systems.
- Professional formulation techniques.
- Formula adaptation and troubleshooting.
- Evidence-led ingredient choices.

You'll learn how to select ingredients for a purpose and understand the reasoning behind each decision.

Our goal isn't to create recipe followers. It's to develop knowledgeable, independent formulators.



Who This Programme Is Designed For

This course is designed for anyone passionate about creating exceptional zero-waste solid cosmetics, with the scientific knowledge to develop and adapt formulas for different product goals. This course is ideal if you:

- Want to create high-quality, zero-waste cosmetic bars.
- Are interested in shampoo and conditioner bars.
- Want to formulate cold process soaps.
- Love creating luxurious solid moisturising bars.
- Want to understand what makes a cosmetic bar perform.
- Wish to select ingredients for specific results.
- Want to adapt formulas to achieve different textures, properties and performance.
- Are considering launching a solid cosmetics brand.
- Value science-led, practical formulation education.

No previous cosmetic chemistry knowledge is required. The essential Foundations modules are included to help you develop your scientific understanding before progressing to practical formulation.



No previous chemistry knowledge is required.

What Makes This Programme Different?

More Than Four Formulas. Following a recipe teaches you how to make one product. Understanding formulation gives you the knowledge to create something new. In this course, you'll work through four featured products:

- Apple Conditioner Bar.
- French Pink Clay Cold Process Soap.
- Rose Geranium Moisturising Bar.
- Papaya Shampoo Bar.

Each product is taught through:

- Video Tutorial.
- Watch the formulation process and learn how the product is created.
- Written Formula Card.
- Written Formulation Template.
- Follow the ingredient percentages and manufacturing method.
- Think Like a Formulator: Understand why each ingredient has been selected, the science behind its function and how to choose alternatives for different product goals.

Learn the formula. Understand the ingredients. Develop the confidence to create your own.

No previous chemistry knowledge is required.







Building the Right Foundations

Understand the Science Before You Formulate.

Successful cosmetic formulation begins with understanding your ingredients and how to work with them responsibly.

That's why this course begins with the complete Foundations of Cosmetic Formulation & Ingredient Safety programme.

Before progressing to specialist products, you'll explore:

- Cosmetic ingredients and their functions.
- INCI names and ingredient identification.
- Natural and synthetic ingredient classifications.
- Safety Data Sheets and regulatory resources.
- Ingredient restrictions and safe handling.
- Preservation and microbiological risks.
- Good Manufacturing Practice.
- Essential formulation safety principles.

This knowledge supports more informed decisions as you begin developing shampoo bars, conditioner bars, soaps and moisturising products.

A strong scientific foundation makes every formulation decision more meaningful.

Module One

Introduction to Cosmetic Products & Ingredients

This opening module introduces the language and science of cosmetic formulation.

Topics include:

- What legally defines a cosmetic product.
- History and evolution of cosmetic formulation.
- Types of cosmetic ingredients
- Ingredient functionality.
- Understanding formulation terminology.
- Reading ingredient declarations.
- Understanding CAS numbers.
- Understanding INCI nomenclature.
- Introduction to the CosIng database.
- Ingredient sourcing.
- Natural versus synthetic ingredients.
- Ingredient classifications (natural, naturally derived, synthetic).
- Organic cosmetic standards.
- COSMOS certification.
- ECOCERT standards.

By the end of this module learners will confidently identify cosmetic ingredients and understand how professional formulators classify them.



Module Two

Compliance & Safe Handling of Cosmetic Ingredients

Safety and regulatory compliance are essential components of professional formulation.

This module teaches learners how to work responsibly with cosmetic ingredients through an introduction to:

- Safety Data Sheets (SDS) and how to read them.
- Safe ingredient storage.
- Laboratory safety.
- Personal protective equipment.
- Hazard communication.
- Ingredient documentation.
- Scientific information sources.
- Regulatory resources.
- Ingredient restrictions.
- Regional legislation.
- Allergens versus irritants.
- Understanding IFRA. Standards.
- Safe fragrance usage.
- Essential oil limitations.
- Responsible ingredient selection.

This module addresses one of the most significant knowledge gaps found within beginner cosmetic education.



Module Three

Preservation Principles, Microbiological Risk, Good Manufacturing Practice & pH

This module introduces the foundations of microbiology within cosmetic formulation, including preservation principles, microbiological risk, Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) and pH. It helps learners understand how these factors relate to product safety and responsible cosmetic formulation. Introducing these concepts early in your formulation journey helps prevent common beginner mistakes that could compromise product safety.

Topics include:

- Introduction to Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP).
- Preventing contamination.
- Hygiene during formulation.
- Product safety throughout manufacture.
- Understanding microbiological risk.
- Differences between anhydrous and water based formulations.
- Why preservation matters.
- The responsibilities of cosmetic formulators.
- Product quality and consumer safety.

Learners finish this module with a clear understanding of why preservation and microbiological control is an essential part of formulation.



Module Four

Understanding Lipids & Lipid Selection

Discover how oils, butters and other lipid ingredients influence cosmetic formulation. Lipids play an important role in the structure, texture, skin feel and performance of many cosmetic products. This module introduces lipid science in a clear, practical way, helping you understand how different materials behave and how to choose them for specific formulation goals.

Topics include:

- Understanding cosmetic lipids.
- Oils, butters and their properties.
- Fatty acids and triglycerides.
- Saturated and unsaturated fatty acids.
- Melting behaviour and product texture.
- Oxidative stability.
- Spreadability and skin feel.
- Selecting lipids for different products.
- Ingredient alternatives and substitutions.
- Balancing formulation performance.

By the end of this module, you'll understand how to make informed lipid selections for different cosmetic formulations.



Module Five

Formulating Conditioner Bars
Featured formulation: Apple Conditioner Bar

Discover the science behind solid hair conditioners and learn how to create a conditioning bar with desirable texture, glide and hair feel.

What you'll learn:

- The purpose of a solid conditioner bar.
- Ingredient selection for conditioning performance.
- How the formulation achieves its structure.
- The role of conditioning ingredients.
- How texture and application influence performance.
- Ingredient alternatives for different formulation goals.
- Understanding the manufacturing process.

Your learning materials:

- Video Tutorial - Apple Conditioner Bar
- Follow the practical preparation and manufacturing process.
- Written formula card.
- Access the ingredient percentages and formulation instructions.
- Think Like a Formulator Ingredient Selection: Explore why each ingredient has been selected, the science behind its function and how to select suitable alternatives when developing your own conditioner bars.

Learn to understand the formula, not simply recreate it.



Module Six

Formulating Shampoo Bars
Featured formulation: Papaya Shampoo Bar

Discover the science behind solid shampoo formulation and learn how ingredient selection influences cleansing, foam, bar structure and hair feel.

What you'll learn:

- Understanding solid shampoo formulations.
- The role of cleansing ingredients.
- Selecting surfactants for different formulation goals.
- Balancing cleansing performance and mildness.
- Understanding foam and sensory properties.
- Choosing ingredients for bar structure.
- The importance of suitable formulation methods.
- Ingredient alternatives and formulation adjustments.

Your learning materials:

- Video Tutorial - Papaya Shampoo Bar.
- Follow the preparation and manufacture of the featured shampoo bar.
- Written formula card.
- Access the professional formulation and manufacturing instructions.
- Think Like a Formulator Ingredient Selection: Explore the science behind each ingredient, understand why it has been selected and discover how to choose alternatives to achieve different cleansing, foaming and sensory properties.

Learn the science behind creating shampoo bars that perform.

Module Seven

Formulating Cold Process Soap
Featured formulation: French Pink Clay Cold Process Soap

Explore the chemistry of cold process soapmaking and learn how oils and alkali react to create a finished soap bar.

What you'll learn:

- The principles of cold process soapmaking.
- Understanding saponification.
- Selecting oils and butters for soapmaking.
- How fatty acid composition influences soap properties.
- The role of sodium hydroxide.
- Understanding appropriate handling and safety.
- The purpose of clay and additional ingredients.
- How ingredient choices influence the finished bar.

Your learning materials:

- Video Tutorial - French Pink Clay Cold Process Soap.
- Follow the soapmaking process with a focus on practical techniques and safe handling.
- Written formula card.
- Access the formulation, ingredient quantities and manufacturing instructions.
- Think Like a Formulator Ingredient Selection: Understand why each ingredient is used, how the underlying chemistry works and how different oil selections can influence the finished soap.

Go beyond soap recipes and understand how to create your own



Module Eight

Formulating Moisturising Bars
Featured formulation: Rose Geranium Moisturising Bar

Discover how oils, butters and structuring ingredients work together to create solid moisturising products with a luxurious skin feel.

What you'll learn:

- The principles of anhydrous moisturising formulations.
- Selecting oils and butters for skin feel.
- Understanding the role of structuring ingredients.
- How melting behaviour influences product performance.
- Controlling hardness and glide.
- Selecting ingredients for different sensory properties.
- Fragrance and essential oil considerations.
- Ingredient alternatives and formula adaptation.

Your learning materials:

- Video Tutorial - Rose Geranium Moisturising Bar
- Learn how to prepare and manufacture a solid moisturising bar.
- Written formula card
- Access the ingredient percentages and formulation method.
- Think Like a Formulator Ingredient Selection: Understand the purpose of each ingredient and how different lipids and structuring materials can be selected to achieve different textures and sensory effects.

Create moisturising bars designed around your own product goals.



Learning Resources

Cosmetic science can be complex, but learning it doesn't have to be. At TCF, we make challenging scientific concepts easier to understand through clear explanations, engaging learning materials and practical examples that connect theory to real world formulation.

Your enrolment includes:

- Comprehensive, professionally written PDF course manuals
- Clear, structured lessons that make complex science accessible
- Practical, real world formulation examples
- Interactive quizzes to reinforce your understanding
- Downloadable reference documents
- Science-led learning resources
- Lifetime access to your course materials

Our resources are designed not just to help you learn, but to become valuable references you can return to as your formulation knowledge and skills develop.

Real science. Clearly explained.
Knowledge that lasts.



Learning Outcomes

Upon completing the programme, you'll have developed knowledge of:

- Essential cosmetic formulation science.
- Ingredient identification and functionality.
- Cosmetic safety and regulatory resources.
- Responsible manufacturing principles.
- Lipid properties and selection.
- Oils, butters and structuring ingredients.
- The science behind conditioner bars.
- Cold process soap and saponification.
- Formulating moisturising bars.
- Solid shampoo formulation.
- Ingredient compatibility and performance.
- Understanding professional formula cards.
- Selecting ingredients for different product goals.
- Recognising appropriate ingredient alternatives.
- Making informed formulation adjustments.
- Approaching product development scientifically.

Most importantly, you'll learn to think like a formulator rather than depend on recipes.

Think Like a Formulator

Don't Just Follow Formulas. Learn to Create Your Own.

Following a formula teaches you how to make one product.

Understanding why that formula works gives you the knowledge to make changes and develop new products.

Through our Think Like a Formulator lessons, you'll explore the reasoning behind each of the four featured formulations.

You'll learn to ask:

- Why has this ingredient been selected?
- What function does it perform?
- How does it influence the finished product?
- What alternative ingredients could be used?
- How would those changes affect the formula?
- What safety and performance considerations apply?

These lessons are designed to help you turn scientific knowledge into practical formulation decisions.

Four formulas to learn from. The knowledge to start creating your own.



Progression Pathway

Take Your Formulation Knowledge Further. The Certificate in Cosmetic Bars & Waterless Cosmetics is one stage in your wider cosmetic formulation journey. With a stronger understanding of ingredient functionality, lipid selection and solid product development, you can continue exploring other cosmetic product categories.

Further TCF specialist certificates include:

- Cosmetic Emulsions & Gels.
- Cosmetic Cleansing Products.
- Cosmetic Scrubs, Polishes & Masks.

Or explore the Diploma in Cosmetic Formulation. Our Diploma brings together Foundations and the four specialist certificates into one comprehensive learning pathway. Continue developing your scientific understanding, expanding your formulation skills and exploring new product possibilities.

Learn the science. Develop the skills. Create something exceptional.



Course Investment

🇬🇧 £249 GBP
🇺🇸 $339 USD
🇪🇺 €299 EUR
🇦🇺 A$479 AUD
🇨🇦 C$469 CAD

Invest in Knowledge. Create Without Limits.

Creating exceptional solid cosmetics starts with understanding the science behind them. At TCF, we believe high quality cosmetic formulation education should be accessible, engaging and affordable, without compromising on scientific credibility.

This course is an investment in knowledge that goes beyond individual recipes, giving you the understanding and confidence to make informed ingredient choices, adapt formulations and develop products that reflect your own creative vision.

International Pricing: All courses are charged in British Pounds (GBP). Prices displayed in other currencies are approximate and provided for guidance only. The final amount in your local currency may vary depending on exchange rates and any conversion fees applied by your payment provider.



A Professional Beginning

Create More Than a Cosmetic Bar. Build Real Formulation Knowledge.

Imagine understanding why a conditioner bar glides through the hair, what gives a moisturising bar its luxurious texture or how the fatty acid composition of oils influences cold process soap.

Now imagine being able to use that knowledge to select ingredients and begin developing your own formulas. That's what learning to think like a formulator is all about. Through this certificate, you'll explore the science behind four different cosmetic product types, discover how ingredients work together and build practical skills you can continue developing.

Whether you're formulating for yourself or working towards creating your own beauty brand, TCF gives you a science-led foundation for more confident product development.

Don't just follow recipes. Learn to be a cosmetic formulator.

