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DAILY Mirror JOBS

Edited by **TRICIA PHILLIPS** mirrorjobs@mirror.co.uk



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My independence day

Avon job freed up Sammy to study

WORKING part time for Avon has unlocked the lifelong dream of becoming a lawyer for Sammy Richard, 24.

Today, thanks to earning more than £700 every month, Sammy, from Ashford, Surrey, can buy her books, study for her law degree, be at home to look after her two sons, and still treat the family to some fun days out.

How come you started selling for Avon?

It was three years ago when Tyler was three and Liam was just a newborn. I felt so frustrated and lost and had no real identity of who I was. I'd been very academic at school and dreamed of being a barrister since I was eight. But I married my husband, Ron, when I was young and Tyler was born when I was 18. It seemed to shut so many options.

I was trying various ways to work from home but it was leading to nothing. A friend who worked for Avon suggested I try it. I knew about them through my mum and nan but it wasn't my thing – I only ever used a bit of foundation and mascara.

Even so, I went for it – it only cost me a £16 sign-up fee and I got my first brochures. I tried door-to-door selling

once but I became so anxious I knew that wasn't for me so I decided to try social networking.

That makes you a very modern Avon rep

I suppose it does. I now do all my selling on social media. Instagram and Facebook are the channels I use the most. I also relied heavily on YouTube

to teach me how to use all the products. I then started doing make-up demos on it to show the quality and extent of the products.

Bizarrely, I suddenly started to attract thousands of followers who loved the tutorials. Before I knew it I was an accidental influencer. This has even led to other brands approaching me to use their products.

How did your first sale make you feel?

The fact that it was to my mum didn't take anything away from it. I was so delighted and amazed at how easy it was. Within a couple of days I had made two or three sales and it went from there. I now work about 20 hours a week which gives me all the freedom I need to look after the boys.

If one of them is sick I am at home and I can choose when I work so I can

juggle studying. Above all else, it has made me feel like I exist beyond being a mum.

I can now afford my books for the Open University degree I am doing and I can see a future for myself.

I urge any woman, whatever their age or circumstances, if they are looking for a way to make changes, this is a way forward. I earn about £700 every three weeks but you could earn far more if you put in the hours.

SHAPE YOUR FUTURE

Sammy is the perfect example of how the lives of women can be improved by having the freedom to earn money on their own terms. Avon has just launched stand4her, a global plan to tackle some of the greatest barriers holding women back from achieving their full potential.

As part of this it has launched the Avon Academy, which will train 500,000

entrepreneurs online and face to face, every month. The launch comes after research revealed 77% of women said working increased their confidence, 65% said it had improved the way in which they are treated by others, and 74% said it increased their ability to be a role model for their children.

EARN EXTRA CASH

To follow in Sammy's footsteps, visit avon.uk.com which has more than six million customers. To find out about other similar opportunities, check out The Direct Selling Association (dsa.org.uk) which keeps an extensive membership list of established firms.

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Meanwhile, you could turn that general clutter round your house into cash via eBay (eBay.co.uk) or Gumtree (gumtree.com).

Vinyl records and vintage clothes are popular but so are hi-tech items, kids toys and clothing. Check out the likes of amazon.co.uk for books, and musicmagpie.co.uk for CDs, DVDs, games, clothes and electronics. Once you've got a feel for it, you could start buying at, say, car boot sales and selling items on for a profit.

If you like shopping but don't have the cash, there are roles for secret shoppers where you can earn anywhere from £10 to £50 per job. In the vast majority of cases, where you have to make a purchase you get to keep it, or it makes for a cheap meal/night out.

Look at Market Force (uk.marketforce.com), Retail Active (retailactive.com) or Serve Legal (servelegal.co.uk) if you are 18 or 19 and happy to monitor sales of alcohol and betting.

CONTACTS

Instagram: [instagram.com/itsammylou](https://www.instagram.com/itsammylou). YouTube: [youtube.com/channel/UC8v4t9lhLbdwfZJia1gZSWw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8v4t9lhLbdwfZJia1gZSWw). Online store: [avon.uk.com/store/blue-diamondbeauty](https://www.avon.uk.com/store/blue-diamondbeauty).

Suddenly
I attracted
followers
and I'm an
influencer



MADE UP
Sammy sells
from home