



T Levels



In future, young people will be able to make a clear choice at 16 – whether to pursue an academic or technical path

T Levels are fundamentally different to A levels and have a completely different purpose.

Academic

A Levels

Subject-based qualifications delivered over 2 years by school sixth-forms, sixth-form colleges and FE colleges

Purpose: To prepare students for higher education

We are currently undertaking a review of other qualifications at level 3 and will only keep those of high quality and with a distinct purpose.

Technical

T Levels

Classroom based programmes delivered over 2 years by an FE provider (80% in college and 20% on the job)

Apprenticeships

Work based training for a minimum of 12 months (80% on the job and 20% off the job e.g. in an FE college)

Purpose: To prepare students for entry into skilled employment (including higher level apprenticeships), either immediately or after higher levels of technical education (L4+)

T Levels and apprenticeships are two options within same technical education system

Both T Levels and apprenticeships are based on the same occupational standards, developed by employers as part of Institute for Apprenticeships

T Level programme

1800 hours¹ over two years (with flexibility).

TQ outline content is set by T Level panels and approved by the Institute for Apprenticeships

Technical Qualification (TQ)

Between 900-1400 hours

Core

20% - 50% of the total TQ time

- Knowledge and understanding of the concepts, theories and principles relevant to the T Level and the broader route
- Core skills relevant to the T Level
- Assessed through an external examination and a substantial, employer-set project

Occupational specialisms (min. 1 per TQ)

50% - 80% of the total TQ time

- Knowledge, skills and behaviours required to achieve the level of competence in an occupational specialism needed to enter skilled employment
- Maths, English and digital skills integrated where they are necessary to achieve competence
- Assessed synoptically through rigorous practical assignments.

T Level Industry Placement

Between 315-420 hours

- Undertaken with an external employer
- Minimum of 45 days
- Students develop technical skills and apply their knowledge in a workplace environment
- Provider should pay for/contribute to travel and subsistence costs, if not covered by the employer
- Employers not expected to pay students

Maths and English requirements

- Students are expected to achieve a level 2 in maths and English. This can be achieved through GCSEs (grade 4 and above) or level 2 Functional Skills (pass)
- T Level panels are free to set higher maths and English requirements, where necessary

Other requirements set by T Level panels

- Occupation-specific requirements included, where possible, if they are essential for skilled employment e.g. licence to practice qualification or professional registration



Employers on T Level panels are developing the outline content for T Levels



T Level panels are made up of employers, professional bodies and providers. They are managed by the Institute for Apprenticeships.

- The panels set out the knowledge, skills and behaviour required to perform skilled occupations in their industry. Panels use the approved standards which are common to apprenticeships as the basis for outline content. They also advise on specific maths, English and digital requirements necessary for occupational competence.
- Once the outline content has been developed, it goes to Institute for Apprenticeships for final approval. The next step is to procure for awarding organisations to turn the content into a qualification, which can be assessed. FE providers then finalise the curriculum.
- The outline content for the first 3 T Levels for 2020 has been finalised and included in the Invitation to Tender to find an awarding organisation, published on 3 September. The IfA is currently consulting on the content for further T Levels which will be delivered in 2021

Industry Placements: support for providers and employers



- We have allocated nearly £60million to providers through the Capacity and Delivery Fund, to help them establish the infrastructure and resources needed to deliver industry placements
- Working alongside ESFA, we are putting in place arrangements for more intensive support for those providers who need it
- We are also investing £5m into the National Apprenticeship Service to expand their current remit to raise awareness and promote industry placements through their employer networks.
- We have published ‘how to’ guidance for both providers and employers, based on good practice from the pilots

T Level Professional Development

- To ensure that T Levels deliver great outcomes for learners, we are committed to ensuring that teachers and leaders have the support they need to deliver them well.
- We are investing up to £20m over the two years to March 2020 to support providers as they prepare for the introduction of T Levels.
- As part of this £20m, we have announced the investment of £8m in a new bespoke T Level Professional Development offer, led by the Education and Training Foundation, to help staff prepare for the change and successfully deliver the first T Levels.
- The programme has 5 strands: Professional development needs analysis, Understanding T Levels, Teacher development programme, Knowledge hubs, and Organisational readiness.

T Level Consultations

- We held a public consultation on T Levels, which launched in November 2017 and ran for 3 months. We received 430 responses from a wide range of organisations.
- The response to the consultation was published in May 2018 and set out how we will re-adjust our approach in certain areas:
 - Introduce an overall Pass grade for T Levels and continue to grade the components of the Technical Qualification separately
 - Provide additional support to enable successful industry placement delivery
 - Fund maths and English for students who have not yet achieved level 2 in addition to the hours required for the other parts of the course
 - Provide ongoing communications to increase understanding and awareness of T Levels.
- On 27 November we also launched a consultation on the funding arrangements for T Levels. This closes on 19 February 2019.

T Level Action Plan 2018

- The T Level Action plan published on 6th December is the second annual update on progress in the policy development and implementation of T Levels. The first action plan was published in October 2017.
- The 2018 Action Plan includes:
 - **Progress on delivery of T Levels in 2020** – how we are working with providers to support them for first teaching
 - **T Levels for delivery in 2021** - the delivery of a further 7 T Levels in 2021, completing the rollout of the Construction and Digital routes, and introducing T Levels from the Health and Science route.
 - **How providers will be selected to deliver T Levels in 2021** – the process for this will begin in January 2019
 - **Clarification on outstanding qualification design issues**, including grading, flexibilities for SEND students, and confirmation that UCAS will allocate tariff points in line with 3 A levels to T Levels - recognising the size and complexity of the new programmes
 - **The assurance and regulatory system** for the Technical Qualifications (TQ) within T Levels
 - The **workforce support** that will be made available from spring 2019

T Levels from September 2020

Digital route

- Digital Production, Design and Development T Level

Construction route

- Design, Surveying and Planning T Level

Education and Childcare route

- Education T Level

T Levels from September 2021

Digital route

- Digital Support and Services T Level
- Digital Business Services T Level

Construction route

- Onsite Construction T Level
- Building Services Engineering T Level

Health and Science route

- Health T Level
- Healthcare Science T Level
- Science T Level

Next Steps

- We will continue to work closely with the selected 2020 providers to test and shape specific elements of the T Level programme and ensure they have the support they need for first teaching.
- We will launch the expressions of interest process in early 2019 for those providers wishing to deliver T Levels in 2021.
- Building on ongoing work to promote T Levels, our communications will ramp up each year as more T Levels are introduced and student numbers increase.
- We will work with the Education Training Foundation as they develop and rollout the professional development offer for teachers of T Levels
- We will continue the procurement process to select the awarding organisation(s) to develop each qualification for the first three T Levels.
- For the wave two pathways, our intention is that the ITT will be published in spring 2019 and the contracts awarded in autumn 2019.
- We will continue to implement the extensive programme of support for industry placements
- Following the commencement of legislation, the Institute will assume responsibility for technical education in 2019