

# A guide to T Levels

T Levels were launched in September 2020 in a small number of colleges. Further T Levels are being launched either in 2022 or 2023 giving a choice of over 20 T Levels courses. T Levels follow on from your GCSEs and will be equivalent to 3 A levels. These 2 year courses have been developed in collaboration with employers and businesses so that the content meets the needs of industry and gives you the skills and knowledge to succeed in the workplace. The ‘T’ in **T Levels** stands for **Technical**; the idea behind these qualifications is that they will introduce a new system of technical education to provide a high quality technical option for learners aged 16-19. T Levels bring together classroom learning for 80% of your time alongside an extended work placement taking 20% or 45 days of your time with a local employer to get you work ready.

## How do they work?

T Levels consist of a number of sections:

1. **The Technical Qualification (TQ)** – this is the main, classroom-based part of the qualification. This is where students will be able to learn about their chosen sectors through a curriculum designed by employers. This technical qualification will have two parts:
  - 1.1. **Core theory** – this is the core knowledge and skills relevant to all occupations covered by the T Level.
  - 1.2. **Occupational specialism** – this is the knowledge and hands-on or practical/specialist skills needed to do a particular occupation or career.
2. **The Industry Placement** – this placement will be for at least 45 days and will give students practical insights into their chosen sector and an opportunity to embed the knowledge and skills that they have gained in the classroom.
3. **English, maths and digital** provision is built into the classroom-based element of the T Level. The programme will also include **employability, enrichment and pastoral** activities, and other industry requirements for work in that occupation, for example Health and Safety qualifications.
4. **Transferable workplace skills** – those skills that are required to work in any workplace environment.

## How T Levels will work with other post-16 choices

T Levels will become one of the main choices for students after GCSEs alongside:

- Apprenticeships: for students who wish to learn a specific occupation ‘on the job’
- A-levels: for students who wish to continue academic education

## Who should study for a T Level?

T Levels are ideal if you are moving on from GCSE studies, enjoy classroom learning and want to experience an industry through the in-depth 45 day industry placement. The T Level is equivalent to 3 A levels and focuses on vocational skills and can help students into skilled employment, higher study or an apprenticeship.

## What are the entry requirements?

They are **Level 3** qualifications so the entry requirements will be similar to A levels or current **Level 3** technical and vocational qualifications such as BTEC/OCR Level 3 Extended Diploma, NVQ Level 3 or VRQ/NVQ. Generally, students will need to have achieved the standard entry requirement of at least five GCSEs at grades 9-4 or 9-5 or equivalent, including maths and English. **It is important to check with each establishment when considering this option.**

**PLEASE NOTE:** For students who don't meet the entry requirements above, all local providers offering T Levels will also be offering **Level 2** one-year transition programmes which will be targeted at young people who are not ready to start a T Level at age 16, but who can realistically be expected to complete a T Level by age 19.

## What occupational areas and T Level pathways are available from September 2022?



### Construction Occupational Area

Design, Surveying & Planning Pathway  
Building Services Engineering and Construction Pathway  
Onsite Construction Pathway



### Digital Sector Occupational Area

Digital Production, Design & Development Pathway  
Digital Business Services Pathway  
Digital Support Services Pathway



### Education and Childcare Occupational Area

Early Years Education Pathway  
Assisting Teaching pathway  
Supporting and Mentoring Students in FE and HE pathway



### Health and Science Occupational Area

Health Pathway  
Healthcare Science Pathway  
Science Pathway



### Business and administration

Management and administration



### Engineering and manufacturing

Maintenance, installation and repair for engineering and manufacturing  
Engineering, manufacturing, processing and control  
Design and development for engineering and manufacturing



### Legal, finance and accounting

Finance  
Accounting

All Apprenticeships and T Levels are based on occupations recognised by employers. The Occupational Areas/Maps bring these together to show where technical education can lead. You can explore this further using:

<https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/occupational-maps/>

## How will T Levels be graded?

The assessment for the qualification will be a mixture of exams, employer set projects, coursework, workplace observations, and a synoptic project/end-point assessment. Students who pass all the elements of their T Level will gain a nationally recognised certificate showing an overall grade of pass, merit, distinction or distinction\*. It will also detail what students have achieved on the course.

The T Level certificate will include:

- An overall grade for the T Level will be given as pass, merit, distinction or distinction\*.
  - A separate grade for the core component and employer set project, using A\* to E.
  - A separate grade for the occupational specialism and synoptic assessment, shown as pass, merit, distinction.
  - Grades or confirmation that the minimum maths and english qualifications are met.
  - Details of the industry placement and its completion.
  - Any additional mandatory requirements of that specific T Level.

In order to pass the qualification, students must have fully completed the industry placement element of the course and gained the necessary level of work experience which will be validated by the employer.

## What other T Levels will be introduced in the future?

In 2023 T Levels will become available in a much wider range of subjects and additional T Levels will also be include:

<b>Agriculture, Land Management and Production</b>	<b>Animal Care and Management</b>	<b>Catering</b>	<b>Craft and Design</b>
<b>Hair, Beauty and Aesthetics</b>	<b>Human Resources</b>	<b>Legal Services</b>	<b>Media, Broadcast and Production</b>

## Why study for an unpaid T Level over a paid Apprenticeship?

T Levels and Apprenticeships are different. T Levels will give you the opportunity to continue your studies and get a broad idea of what it would be like to work in a certain occupational area through gaining the core knowledge and skills, with the opportunity to choose your specialism later. Apprenticeships are paid, work-based training for those students who have a good idea of what occupation they wish to pursue and are willing to move straight to more practical ways of working by learning on the job.

## Can you go on to Higher Education after studying for a T Level?

Yes, you can. T Levels will prepare you to progress into a skilled job, but you can also choose to take further technical training, such as a higher or degree apprenticeship, if you don't want to move straight into a job. Students who want to progress into higher education will be able to as UCAS points will be awarded for T Levels. Points will be allocated to overall T Level grades, not to separate elements of the T Level to recognise the value of the qualification as a whole. The table below shows the UCAS tariff allocation for T Levels and how it compares to the allocation for A levels.

<b>UCAS tariff points</b>	<b>T Level overall grade</b>	<b>A level</b>
168	Distinction*	AAA*
144	Distinction	AAA
120	Merit	BBB
96	Pass (C or above on the core)	CCC
72	Pass (D or E on the core)	DDD

## Where will you be able to study T Levels locally?

T Levels were introduced in 2020 and 2021; additional T Levels are being added for 2022. The table below shows where you can study them locally.

Provider Name	Chichester College Group #	Fareham College	Farnborough College of Technology	HSDC #	Peter Symonds College	Portsmouth College	Sparsholt College
Design, Surveying and Planning for Construction	*	*		*			*
Building Services Engineering for Construction	*						*
Onsite Construction	*	*					*
Digital Production, Design and Development	*	*	*	*			*
Digital Business Services	*	*	*	*			*
Digital Support Services	*	*	*	*			*
Education and Childcare	*	*	*	*	*		
Health	*	*	*	*		*	*
Healthcare Science	*	*	*	*		*	*
Science	*	*	*	*		*	*
T level transition programme	*	*	*	*	*		
Management and administration	*	*	*	*			
Design and Development for Engineering, Manufacturing	*	*	*	*			
Engineering, Manufacturing, Processing and Control	*	*	*	*			
Maintenance, Installation and Repair for Engineering and Manufacturing	*	*	*	*			
Accounting	*	*	*	*			
Finance	*	*	*	*			

# - please refer to the group to identify which college / campus provides each T level.

## Where can you find out more?

For details of the content of each T Level, talk to the providers who will be delivering the qualification. Ask questions at open evenings about assessment, progression and work experience to enable you to make an informed choice as to whether the qualification will suit you. Compare the assessment to other qualifications on offer or apprenticeships.

The following websites will also be useful to help with your research:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/introduction-of-t-levels/introduction-of-t-levels>
- <https://www.tlevels.gov.uk/>
- <https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/t-levels/>
- There is also a useful video with the T Level branding: <https://youtu.be/doW5-SUpUN0>

Through this document you may be informed of other websites which are not under the control of EBP South (inc. Basingstoke Consortium). We have no control over the nature, content and availability of those sites. The inclusion of any links does not necessarily imply a recommendation or endorse the views expressed within them.

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