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Department
for Education

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T Levels: what they are

T Levels are new courses coming in September 2020, which will follow 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 prepares students for work.

T Levels will offer students a mixture of classroom learning and ‘on-the-job’ experience during an industry placement of around 3 months. They will provide the knowledge and experience needed to open the door into skilled employment, further study or a higher apprenticeship.

Students will be able to take a T Level in the following subject areas:

accountancy

- agriculture, land management and production
- animal care and management
- building services engineering
- catering
- craft and design
- cultural heritage and visitor attractions
- design, development and control
- design, surveying and planning
- digital business services
- digital production, design and development
- digital support and services
- education
- financial
- hair, beauty and aesthetics
- health
- healthcare science
- human resources
- legal
- maintenance, installation and repair
- management and administration
- manufacturing and process
- media, broadcast and production
- onsite construction
- science

When they will start

The first 3 T Levels will be available at selected colleges and schools (providers) across England in September 2020. This means pupils who entered year 10 in September 2018 will be the first to be able to study them.

We have published a [list of the providers](#) who will be offering the first courses in:

- digital production, design and development
- design, surveying and planning
- education

How T Levels will work with other post-16 choices

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

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

We are currently reviewing post-GCSE qualifications to create a simpler, high-quality system that students, parents and employers will all understand.

T Levels will be based on the same standards as apprenticeships, designed by employers and approved by the Institute for Apprenticeships (IfA). We expect the total time for a T Level to be around 1,800 hours over the 2 years, including the industry placement. This is a significant increase on most current technical education courses. This differs from an apprenticeship, which is typically 80% on-the-job and 20% in the classroom and is more suited to those who know what occupation they want to pursue, want to earn a wage and learn at the same time and are ready to enter the workforce at age 16.

How T Levels are being developed

Employers and providers are working together to develop each T Level, with support from DfE and IfA. Groups of employers define the skills and requirements for each T Level course by participating in [T Level panels](#). This ensures that students taking T Levels will develop the technical knowledge and skills required by employers in that industry.

The T Level panels have been developing the [content for the qualification](#), based on the same standards as apprenticeships and these plans are being tested and reviewed with students, education providers and employers.

Structure of a T Level

T Level courses will include the following compulsory elements:

- a technical qualification, which will include
 - core theory, concepts and skills for an industry area
 - specialist skills and knowledge for an occupation or career
- an industry placement with an employer
- a minimum standard in maths and English if students have not already achieved them

Industry placements

Every T Level will include an industry placement with an employer focused on developing the practical and technical skills required for the occupation. These will last a minimum of 45 working days but can last longer. Employers can offer industry placements as a block, day release or a mix of these.

Providers will support employers offering industry placements. This will include assistance with the necessary paperwork, a careful planning process and support with designing the industry placement.

The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and National Apprenticeship Service (part of ESFA) will work with employers and providers on industry placements. Employers interested in finding out more about industry placements, can contact 08000 150 600 or email tlevel.placement@education.gov.uk.

Grading

Students who pass all the elements of their T Level will get a nationally recognised certificate showing an overall grade of pass, merit or distinction. It will also set out the details of what students have achieved on the course.

The T Level certificate will include:

- an overall pass grade for the T Level, shown as pass, merit or distinction
- a separate grade for the occupational specialism, shown as pass, merit or distinction
- a separate grade for the core component, using A* to E
- grades for maths and English qualifications
- details of the industry placement

Funding and support for providers

We recognise that significant additional funding will be needed for the successful introduction and delivery of T Levels.

We have already announced additional funding of £500 million a year, once T Levels are fully rolled out, to help providers meet the costs of additional teaching hours and organising industry placements.

Providers of the first 3 T Levels will be able to apply for funding for up-to-date equipment and facilities. They will also be able to access training to help prepare their teachers and leaders.

For more information, visit [T Levels: next steps for providers](#).

Timeline

February 2019

[Expression of interest](#) for providers who are interested in delivering T Levels in the academic year 2021 to 2022 closes on Thursday, 28 February 2019.

Consultation on the [proposals for distributing funding to providers for the delivery of T levels from 2020](#) closes at 11:45pm on Tuesday, 19 February 2019.

Summer 2019

Detailed funding information available for the 2020 providers including an indicative T Levels funding allocation.

Autumn 2020

First T Level programmes start for specific occupations in 3 industries:

- digital production, design and development (digital industry)

- design, surveying and planning (construction industry)
- education (education and childcare industry)

Autumn 2021

T Level courses start in these subject areas:

- building services engineering
- digital business services
- digital support and services
- health
- healthcare science
- onsite construction
- science

Get involved

Find out more about the [next steps for providers and how to get involved](#).

Employers interested in finding out more about industry placements, can contact 08000 150 600 or email tlevel.placement@education.gov.uk.

Read the [T Level action plan](#) for detailed information about how we're developing the T Level qualifications for post-16 students.

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