

INTRODUCTION OF T LEVELS

What are T Levels?

T Levels are a brand-new, technical qualification that you can do following GCSEs as an alternative to A Levels, other post-16 courses or an apprenticeship. They launched in September 2020 and bring classroom learning and an extended industry placement together, on a course, designed with businesses and employers.

T Levels are ideal if you have finished your GCSEs and want the knowledge and experience to get straight into employment, an apprenticeship or higher education. One T Level takes 2 years to complete and is equivalent to 3 A Levels.

The first 3 T Levels started in September 2020 at selected schools and colleges in England. More T Levels start in the following years until all 24 are available, covering everything from agriculture to catering and engineering to science.

In time, students will be able to take a T Level in the following subject areas:

- accounting
- agriculture, land management and production
- animal care and management
- building services engineering for construction (starting September 2021)
- catering
- craft and design
- design and development for engineering and manufacturing
- design, surveying and planning for construction (now available)
- digital business services (starting September 2021)
- digital production, design and development (now available)
- digital support and services (starting September 2021)
- education and childcare (now available)
- finance
- hair, beauty and aesthetics
- health (starting September 2021)
- healthcare science (starting September 2021)
- human resources
- legal
- maintenance, installation and repair for engineering and manufacturing
- management and administration
- engineering, manufacturing, processing and control
- media, broadcast and production
- onsite construction (starting September 2021)
- science (starting September 2021)





How do T Levels work?

T Levels are to 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

T Level students typically spend 80% of the course in the classroom, learning the skills that employers need. The other 20% is a meaningful industry placement, where the skills are put into action. This varies from an apprenticeship which is 80% work and 20% classroom learning.

T Levels have been designed with leading businesses and employers to give you the knowledge and skills you need. More than 200 businesses – including Fujitsu and Skanska – have been involved so you can be confident that T Levels will move you to the next level.

Following successful completion of all elements of the T Level, the student will receive a nationally recognised certificate. T Levels are equivalent to 3 A Levels and as such will accrue UCAS points based on grades achieved, should university be the progression route.

The Structure of a T Level

T Level courses include the following compulsory elements:

a technical qualification, which includes:

- 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 includes an industry placement with an employer focused on developing the practical and technical skills required for the occupation. These will last a minimum of 315 hours (approximately 45 days) but can last longer. Employers can offer industry placements as a block, day release or a mix of these, and can discuss sharing part of the placement with another employer if necessary.

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.

How does the Grading and certification work with a T Level?

Students who complete their T Level will receive an overall grade of pass, merit, distinction or distinction*. They will get a nationally recognised certificate which will show their overall grade and a breakdown of what they have achieved.

The T Level certificate will include:

- an overall grade for the T Level, shown as pass, merit, distinction or distinction*
- a separate grade for the core component, using A* to E
- a separate grade for each occupational specialism, shown as pass, merit or distinction

It will also include confirmation that the student has:

- met the minimum requirements for maths and English qualifications
- completed the industry placement
- met any additional mandatory requirements

A student's overall T Level grade will be worked out from the grades they achieved on the core component and the occupational specialism(s).

Students who do not pass all elements of their T Level will get a T Level statement of achievement which will show the elements they have completed.

Progression following completion of a T Level

T Levels will provide several progression options to students. These include skilled employment, an apprenticeship and higher education.

To help T Level students get into higher education, UCAS tariff points will be allocated to the overall T Level grade. See breakdown below:

UCAS tariff points	T Level overall grade	A level
168	Distinction* (A* on the core and distinction in the occupational specialism)	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

Find out more

If you're interested in finding out more, visit the following website:

<https://www.tlevels.gov.uk/>