



## NEWSLETTER ON QUALIFICATIONS REFORM AT LEVEL 3 AND BELOW April 2024

Welcome to the second edition of our qualifications reform newsletter.

Through this newsletter we'll highlight key dates and the action you should take as Government's reforms are implemented, shine a light on innovative practice shared by colleagues working in the sector, and respond to 'hot topics' raised by you.

### Latest News

#### Qualifications approved and funded for first teach in 2025

Next month (May 2024) we will publish a provisional list of level 3 qualifications approved for public funding in cycle 1 for first teach in 2025.

In June 2024, we will also publish a final list of qualifications overlapping with Wave 4 T Levels.

In July 2024 we will publish a final list of level 3 qualifications approved for public funding in cycle 1 for first teach in 2025.

We will also publish a provisional list of level 2 qualifications approved for public funding in cycle 1 for first teach in 2025 alongside those level 2 qualifications that will be defunded.



**FOR  
ACTION**



Let us know what topics we should cover in the next edition by contacting us directly; [QUALIFICATIONS.Reform@education.gov.uk](mailto:QUALIFICATIONS.Reform@education.gov.uk)



Please encourage your colleagues to sign-up to our mailing list by using our mailing list form; [Qualifications reform mailing list](#).

# Personal Social and Employability Consultation

We launched a consultation on Monday 25 March seeking views on new national standards to improve employment and social outcomes for students taking these qualifications. We have held online events to help students, providers, and members of the public respond to the consultation. There are still some opportunities to learn more about the consultation and you can book onto further webinars below. The consultation ends on the 20th May and can be accessed here:

[Personal, social and employability \(PSE\) qualifications: national standards consultation - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/personal-social-and-employability-pse-qualifications-national-standards-consultation)  
([www.gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk))

PSEQ Consultation: Round table - Personalised PSEQs  
1/5/24 1-2.30pm  
[Click to register](#)

PSEQ Consultation: Round Table - The Standards  
Thurs 2/5/24 3-4.30pm  
[Click to register](#)

PSEQ Consultation: Round table - Awarding Organisations  
Fri 3/5/24 2-3.30pm  
[Click to register](#)



## HELP AND SUPPORT:

### The Gatsby Charitable Foundation



The Gatsby Charitable Foundation is committed to improving and promoting high-quality technical education. As part of on-going programmes, Gatsby is funding a project to support new collaborative curriculum planning networks, each working with a small group of colleges and facilitated by experienced FE curriculum professionals. The focus will be shaped by the network members to support practical next steps for curriculum reform implementation, development, and innovation.

Any college that is interested in finding out more can contact Sue Clarke, Project Manager (Qualifications Reform) on [sue.clarke@gatsby.org.uk](mailto:sue.clarke@gatsby.org.uk)

## Webinar

### Webinar for school leaders and teachers

Register for a webinar to help you understand changes to which qualifications will be funded in future.

This webinar will be useful as an introduction to the reforms.

[Click to register.](#)



### HANDY LINKS

We recently launched a dedicated 'one-stop-shop' guide to Government's qualification reforms on GOV.UK [Link to webpage](#). This has been developed with the help of colleagues working in the FE sector and straightforwardly explains the reforms, key dates, and sources of practical help and support.

This includes a concise timeline for qualifications reform [Link to Timeline Appendix 4a](#) and answers to frequently asked questions [Link to FAQ](#).



## HOT TOPIC

A hot topic at our regional events last autumn was, **“What options are available to students who want to study health and social care in future?”** In this article we outline the options that will be available and provide links to further resources to support your curriculum and pathway planning.



### Navigating Educational Pathways in Health and Social Care

The landscape of health and social care education in England has evolved significantly in recent years, with the introduction of T Levels as part of broader reforms aimed at enhancing technical education. While T Levels offer a structured pathway for students interested in pursuing careers in health and social care, it's essential to recognise that there are alternative options for students who wish to progress in this sector.



This is a recent webinar on the topic: [Webinar recording: Hosting T Level industry placements in the health & social care sector – T Levels and industry placement support for employers](#)  
You can also find out more about how to deliver the Health T level using these resources; [Case Study](#)  
[Video Case Study](#)  
[Dina and Katy talk T Levels- student viewpoint video.](#)

#### Health T level

All students on the Health T Level will develop a general understanding of health and science, as well as learning about topics specific to health.

When T Levels were initially developed, it wasn't clear that there were L3 occupations in social care that would be appropriate for a 2 year, classroom based, technical qualification. Responding to feedback from the sector to rebalance the core content of the Health T Level, IfATE conducted a review in autumn 2022 to look specifically at the Health core, reviewing the relevance of all science content and increasing the emphasis on care.

The adapted Health specification has been taught since September 2023, and many providers follow the good practice of ensuring their Health students complete 'The Care Certificate' as part of their industry placement, spending a portion of their hours working in a care environment.

The Department recently co-founded an ICS T Levels Network where health and care employers come together to share best practice, attend webinars and work together on utilising T Level progression as a cross-sector solution to workforce challenges. You can sign up to the network here: [sign up to the Network HERE: Department for Education & Gatsby Foundation ICS Industry Placement Network \(office.com\)](#)

## Exploring Alternative Pathways

While T Levels provide a comprehensive blend of theoretical knowledge and practical experience, alternative pathways can offer a range of options for students with varying preferences, career aspirations and starting points.

### T Level Foundation Year

The T Level Foundation Year provides a high-quality route onto T Levels for students who would benefit from the additional study time and preparation before they start their T Level. It includes a diagnostic period to identify the student's development, learning and support needs and help them make an informed choice about their chosen T Level route.

### Apprenticeships: Learning Through Experience

For those who prefer hands-on, workplace-based learning, apprenticeships offer a valuable alternative to the T Level or academic study. Level 3 apprenticeships, such as the Senior Healthcare Support Worker apprenticeship, provide an avenue for gaining practical experience while earning a qualification.

### Alternative Academic Qualifications (AAQs)

In addition to T Levels, students will have the option to pursue alternative academic qualifications in health and social care. These qualifications can be submitted by awarding organisations in cycle 1, and where approved will be available for first teach from 2025. Students could study a small AAQ in Health and Social care alongside A levels in subjects such as Biology and Psychology, together with enrichment activities that could include work experience in the sector. This route provides an alternative educational pathway for students who wish to progress to study at level 4 and above in Higher Education. You can use '[Appendix 4b Subject and Qualification timeline](#)' to understand more about qualifications available for first teach in 2025 and beyond.

## Navigating Educational Pathways in Health and Social Care



### Streamlining Qualifications for Clarity and Impact

In an effort to streamline the educational landscape, the Department for Education conducted an extensive assessment process regarding T Level overlap with other qualifications. Some existing health and social care qualifications will remain in the system beyond 2024, because they did not meet the very specific criteria to be assessed as overlapping with T Levels. These qualifications will undergo reforms in subsequent years, ensuring continued provision at Level 3 once the reforms are complete.

As the education system continues to evolve, it's important that students are aware of the pathways available to them in the health and social care sector. Whether through T Levels, apprenticeships, or alternative academic qualifications and A levels, there are multiple routes for individuals to achieve their career goals in this important sector. By understanding and exploring these options, students can make informed decisions that align with their future aspirations.

The Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IfATE) occupational maps show where technical education can lead

Explore the IfATE occupational maps by selecting a route below:



## IfATE Occupational Map for Health standards