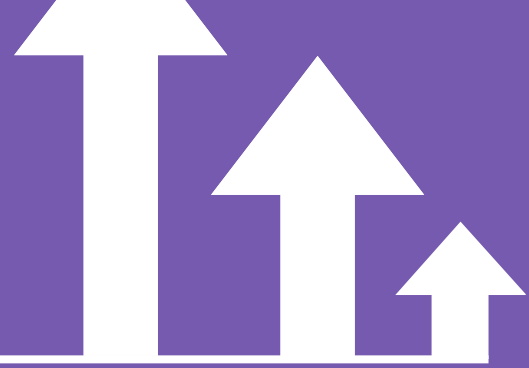
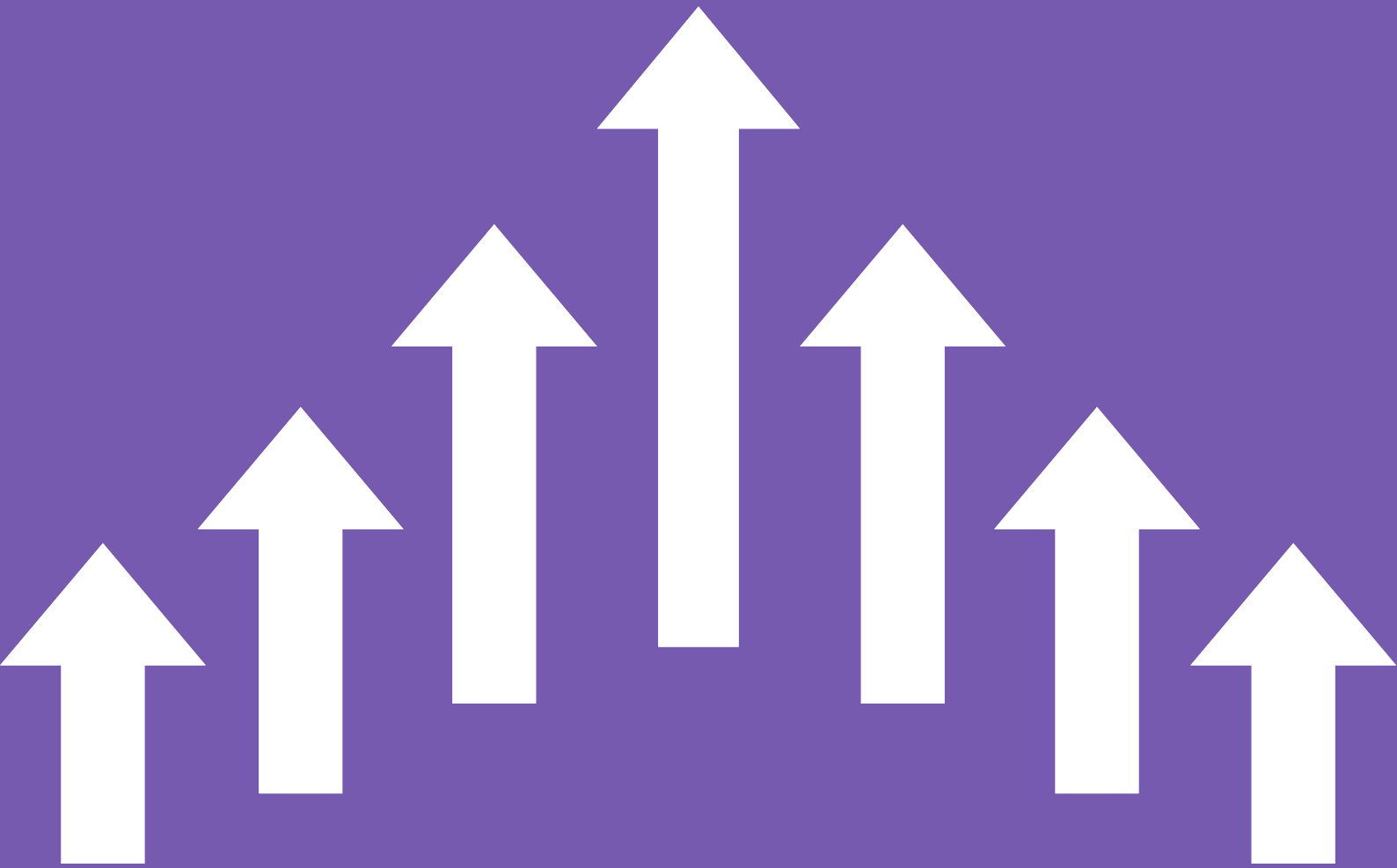


**A GUIDE FOR**  
**TEACHERS & CAREERS PROFESSIONALS**  
SEPTEMBER 2025



***T-LEVELS***  
***THE NEXT LEVEL QUALIFICATION***



# USING THIS GUIDE



This resource has been created for **teachers and careers professionals** to provide information on T Levels - an employer-designed, technical alternative to A-levels. 80% of a T Level student's time is spent in a learning environment, with 20% of their time spent undertaking a meaningful industry placement.

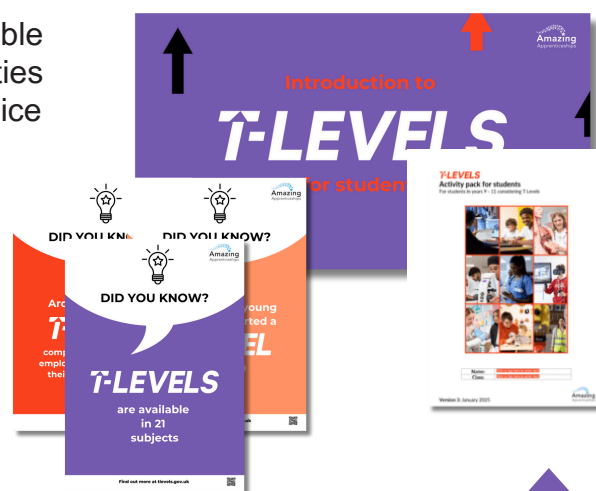
The sections of this guide will equip you with the information needed to understand what T Levels are, how they are structured and the subjects available so that you can then share this information with students, parents/carers and colleagues.

A wide range of accompanying resources are also available for teachers and careers staff to use when running activities to help raise awareness about T Levels as a post-16 choice for young people. Resources include:

- Student Activity Pack
- Posters and display screens
- Games and quizzes
- Rapid Read guide

To access all resources, please visit:

[Amazingapprenticeships.com/t-levels](https://amazingapprenticeships.com/t-levels)



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If you require further information or guidance on T Levels, please contact us via email. We aim to answer all enquiries within 5 working days. [tlevel.delivery@education.gov.uk](mailto:tlevel.delivery@education.gov.uk)

# WHAT ARE T LEVELS?



## WHAT ARE T LEVELS?

T Levels are post-16 technical qualifications taken after GCSEs as an alternative to A-levels, apprenticeships and other post-16 options.

T Levels are designed and backed by employers to give students the knowledge and skills businesses need and give them a head start in their careers.

T Level courses are high quality - with longer teaching hours than most current technical qualifications. One T Level is roughly equivalent in size to 3 A-levels.

Every T Level includes a substantial industry placement element of around 45 days (students spend around 80% of their time in a learning environment and 20% on the placement).

The outline content for T Levels has been devised by employers and other professionals representing occupations within the relevant area, with input from education experts. This ensures that the qualifications meet the needs of industry and give students the best opportunity for a successful career.

T Levels provide the knowledge and experience needed for skilled employment, further study (including higher education and Higher Technical Qualifications) and higher or degree apprenticeships.

## KEY FACTS

- ↑ Two-year course for 16-19 year olds.
- ↑ One T Level is roughly equivalent to a three A-level programme.
- ↑ Every T Level includes an industry placement with an employer of at least 45 days.
- ↑ Designed by employers to give students the skills needed for industry.
- ↑ Offered by schools and colleges across the country.
- ↑ Supports progression to higher education, apprenticeships, further study or work.
- ↑ UCAS points awarded in line with A-levels.

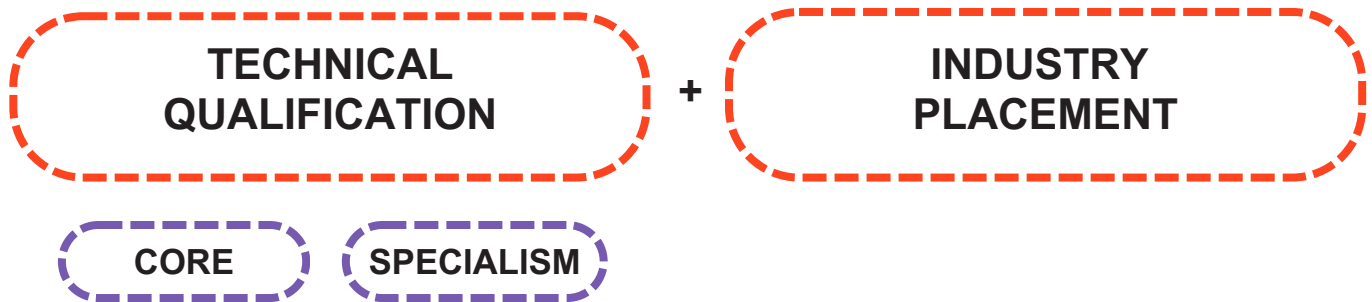
Did you know more than 60,000 young people have started a T Level since 2020?



# STRUCTURE OF A T LEVEL



T Levels comprise of 2 mandatory parts, the technical qualification and the industry placement.



## CORE COMPONENT

The core component of a T Level assesses underpinning knowledge, understanding and core skills relevant to the occupations covered by the T Level.

For example, the core content for the Education and Early Years T Level includes safeguarding, health and safety and wellbeing. Students will undertake an Employer Set Project as part of this component. These are live briefs set by employers in conjunction with Awarding Organisations (AOs) - and cover current issues relevant to employers in that industry.

## OCCUPATIONAL SPECIALISM

Each T Level contains one or more occupational specialisms focussed on assessing the specific knowledge, skills and behaviours relevant to an occupation within the relevant T Level pathway.

For example, occupational specialisms for the Design and Development for Engineering and Manufacturing T Level include mechanical engineering and structural engineering.

## INDUSTRY PLACEMENT

All T Levels contain a mandatory Industry Placement, which includes:

- A high-quality industry placement of a minimum of 45 days.
- A focus on developing practical and technical skills required for the profession or trade that the student is studying for.
- Experience in a real working environment, where students make a meaningful contribution.





## HOW DOES THE INDUSTRY PLACEMENT WORK?

Industry placements really set T Levels apart from other technical qualifications. They are the time spent by students learning and working in an organisation, with an external employer, for a minimum of 45 working days.

Industry placements have proved to be a real highlight for students, both in building their confidence for the workplace and helping them decide on their future studies or career.

While on the placement, students are given meaningful tasks so they will gain real experience of the workplace. They are an opportunity for students to put the knowledge and skills they've learned in the classroom into practice, and to start building the skills they'll need for their future career. This helps students to progress once they have finished their T Level, whether that is directly into employment, an apprenticeship, or more education.

T Level providers are responsible for sourcing industry placements - and as it's part of the student's course, it is unpaid, although employers can choose to pay students if they wish.

## THE BENEFITS

### Students benefit by having the opportunity to:

- ↑ Put their studies into context and practice their developing skills in a real work environment.
- ↑ Understand the world of work and start networking with potential future employers.
- ↑ Gain real experience to put on their CV and talk about at interview.
- ↑ Check that this is the career they want to pursue.

### Employers benefit by:

- ↑ Spotting talented young people that they might want to recruit.
- ↑ Bringing in new skills and extra resource for projects.
- ↑ Upskilling existing staff through coaching and mentoring.
- ↑ Creating a diverse workforce and supporting their community.

Did you know that around 1/3 of T Level completers who move into employment are working for their industry placement organisation?



# HOW ARE T LEVELS GRADED?



## T LEVELS GRADING

Students who meet all of the requirements of their T Level are awarded an overall grade of either Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction\*.

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

		Occupational Specialism Grade		
		Distinction	Merit	Pass
Core Component Grade	A*	Distinction*	Distinction	Distinction
	A	Distinction	Distinction	Merit
	B	Distinction	Merit	Merit
	C	Merit	Merit	Pass
	D	Merit	Pass	Pass
	E	Pass	Pass	Pass

Overall T Level Grade

## PARTIAL COMPLETION

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

To support students who partially achieve their T Level (students who complete the core and the Industry Placement OR the occupational specialism and the Industry Placement) UCAS points will be allocated.

## UCAS TARIFF

To support progression to higher education, UCAS have confirmed the tariff for T Levels. The tariff is based on an alignment of the standards of attainment for T Levels with the standards of attainment for other level 3 qualifications, including A-levels.

UCAS points will be allocated to the overall T Level grade and not to separate components of the programme.

T Levels will receive points in line with 3 A-levels, such that the highest overall T Level grade (Distinction\*) will be awarded the same number of points as 3 A\*s at A level (168 UCAS points). An overall T Level Pass grade will be awarded at least 72 UCAS points, in line with 3 Ds at A-level.

The Tariff points allocated for each overall grade are as follows:

UCAS Tariff points	T Level overall grade
168	Distinction*
144	Distinction
120	Merit
96	Pass (C or above on the core)
72	Pass (D or E on the core)

# T LEVEL SUBJECTS



## WHICH T LEVEL SUBJECTS ARE AVAILABLE?

There are 21 T Level subjects available:

<b>Agriculture, Environmental and Animal Care</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Agriculture, Land Management and Production</li><li>• Animal Care and Management</li></ul>
<b>Business and Administration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Management and Administration</li></ul>
<b>Construction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Building Services Engineering for Construction</li><li>• Design, Surveying and Planning for Construction</li></ul>
<b>Creative and Design</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Craft and Design</li><li>• Media, Broadcast and Production</li></ul>
<b>Digital</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Digital Business Services</li><li>• Digital Production, Design and Development</li><li>• Digital Support Services</li></ul>
<b>Education and Early Years</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Education and Early Years</li></ul>
<b>Engineering and Manufacturing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Design and Development for Engineering and Manufacturing</li><li>• Maintenance, Installation and Repair for Engineering and Manufacturing</li><li>• Engineering, Manufacturing, Processing and Control</li></ul>
<b>Health and Science</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Health</li><li>• Healthcare Science (last enrolments September 2025)</li><li>• Science</li></ul>
<b>Legal, Finance and Accounting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Accounting</li><li>• Finance</li><li>• Legal Services</li></ul>
<b>Sales, Marketing and Procurement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Marketing</li></ul>



## PROGRESSION ROUTES FROM T LEVELS

There are many exciting progression options available after studying a T Level:

### EMPLOYMENT

**Skilled Employment:** T Levels are designed to equip students with the skills, knowledge and experience necessary to access entry-level employment.

### APPRENTICESHIPS

**Apprenticeships:** Students can move on to a relevant apprenticeship at level 4 or a degree apprenticeship. In some cases, a student might want the opportunity to work in a different or more specialist area, which might mean taking an apprenticeship at level 3 or below. This would take into account the prior learning gained through completion of a T Level (while still meeting the minimum duration).

### HIGHER TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS

**Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs):** If students want to continue their technical education, HTQs are new or existing level 4 and 5 qualifications such as higher national certificates (HNCs), higher national diplomas (HNDs) and foundation degrees. They sit between T Levels and degrees, and can be taught at a Further Education (FE) college, an Independent Training Provider (ITP) or a university. All HTQs are developed in collaboration with employers and based on the same occupational standards as T Levels, so students can develop the skills that employers want.

### HIGHER EDUCATION

**Higher Education (HE):** T Levels carry UCAS points in the same way as A-levels, to allow progression to Higher Education and study a relevant degree. Over 160 higher education providers accept T Levels for entry into higher education. Where a student has a particular university or course in mind might be helpful to check the university's entry requirements.



Skills England's occupational maps show where technical education can lead. [Click here to view.](#)

# TESTIMONIALS



*I chose a T Level over other courses because of the industrial placement element of the course. This gave me an opportunity to get work ready and understand how to work in an IT setting in the future. I also liked how it wasn't all essay based, unlike A-levels. I personally do not like essay writing (some people do and that's fair, I don't!).*

**Former Digital Production, Design and Development T Level student, Joe**

*Throughout the T Level course I developed numerous skills including coding, project management, data analysis, and effective communication. The course has also improved my problem-solving and critical thinking skills, especially in the context of digital security and GDPR. The hands-on experience better prepared me for professional challenges in the field of AI and Analytics.*

**T Level Student of the Year in the 2024 National Apprenticeship and Skills Awards, Fernanda**



*I chose a T Level because I originally wanted to pursue a career in architecture, but I didn't want to go through the route of having to study maths and art at A-level. When I was looking into studying at La Retraite School, I came across their T Levels page and saw they offered a T Level in Construction. Though unfamiliar with T Levels at the time, my parents encouraged me to give it a try.*

**Former Construction T Level student, Nylah**



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



### **What is the difference between a T Level and an apprenticeship?**

Apprenticeships are paid work, suitable for students who know what occupation they want to pursue and wish to train 'on the job' (80% in the workplace, 20% off the job). T Levels are largely classroom based, with a substantive industry placement (80% in classroom, 20% in workplace). T Levels offer a broader course content - and students will also specialise in a particular area through the occupational specialism. Apprenticeships content is narrower and focussed on a specific occupation from the outset.



### **Can industry placements take place remotely?**

Students studying eligible T Levels can complete up to 20% of their industry placement hours remotely. This approach can be used in office-based environments where hybrid working has become an established practice (for example accounting or legal). For T Levels in Digital, up to 50% of the placement can take place remotely.



### **What are the entry requirements for T Levels?**

Each college or school sets their own entry requirements in line with the course content. As they are roughly equivalent to a 3 A-level programme, T Levels are more challenging than most other technical qualifications, so it is helpful if students are prepared for this where appropriate.



### **What about students who need extra support to enrol on a T Level?**

Some T Level providers offer a T Level Foundation Year, which is a one-year course designed to provide additional support for students to help them enrol onto a T Level. Students may want to ask the college or school if they offer this.

Did you know that T Levels provide a great route into higher and degree apprenticeships?



# USEFUL LINKS



- ↑ Information on each T Level, plus how to find your nearest T Level provider:  
[tlevels.gov.uk](https://tlevels.gov.uk)
- ↑ T Level Guides, Resources and Newsletters: T Level Support for Schools and Colleges  
[support.tlevels.gov.uk/hc/en-gb](https://support.tlevels.gov.uk/hc/en-gb)
- ↑ Further details on T Levels from UCAS: What Are T Levels? | Your Questions Answered  
[ucas.com/further-education/post-16-qualifications/qualifications-you-can-take/t-levels](https://ucas.com/further-education/post-16-qualifications/qualifications-you-can-take/t-levels)
- ↑ List of Higher Education Providers accepting T Levels: Universities and Higher Education providers accepting T Levels  
[gov.uk/government/publications/t-level-resources-for-universities](https://gov.uk/government/publications/t-level-resources-for-universities)
- ↑ Progression and career options following completion of a T Level: Occupational maps  
[occupational-maps.skillsengland.education.gov.uk](https://occupational-maps.skillsengland.education.gov.uk)
- ↑ A selection of T Levels themed quizzes and games from Amazing Apprenticeships  
[amazingapprenticeships.com/t-levels](https://amazingapprenticeships.com/t-levels)



If you require further information or guidance on T Levels, please contact us via email. We aim to answer all enquiries within 5 working days. [tlevel.delivery@education.gov.uk](mailto:tlevel.delivery@education.gov.uk)