



Department
for Education

Using the new level 2 qualifications in the reformed landscape from 2025

**Questions and answers linked to the
publication of the first list of approved
qualifications at level 2 in August 2024**

August 2024

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Summary

This publication answers questions we anticipate ESFA funded providers may have in response to our publication of the list of new level 2 technical qualifications (TQs) that have been approved for public funding in England from 1 August 2025.

Who this publication is for

These questions and answers are for ESFA funded providers who will deliver the new level 2 TQs. They may also be useful to others, such as awarding organisations.

Main points

The questions and answers are linked to the list of approved level 2 qualifications published in August 2024.

We have tried to anticipate questions linked to the announcement.

We have already published a wider set of [Post-16 Qualifications Reform FAQs](#) as part of our [Information and support resources for qualification reform](#). These include questions about qualification reform more widely. We have not duplicated those questions here.

Document history

This is the first version of this Q&A document.

We will keep these questions and answers under review and publish any updates.

Questions and answers

The new qualifications at level 2

Where can I find the list of level 2 qualifications you have just approved for public funding in England?

You can find the list of new level 2 technical qualifications that have been approved for public funding in England from 1 August 2025 in our [information and support for providers on qualifications reform](#).

You will also be able to find them in our [List of Qualifications approved for funding](#). This website has funding approval information for all of the qualifications that are approved for public funding in England by the Department for Education. Please be aware that there

will be slight gap between the list appearing on the information and support for providers web site and the updated list of qualifications approved for funding.

What is a technical occupational entry qualification - 16 to 19 and adults

A technical occupational entry qualification (TOQ) is a type of technical qualification (TQ) that aims to support a student to enter into a role in employment. These qualifications are aligned to IFATE occupational standards.

At level 2 there are two types of occupational entry qualifications:

Occupational entry qualifications are aligned to the occupational standard at level 2 and support progression to employment in a given route.

Extended occupational entry qualifications are slightly larger. They will include the same technical content as the smaller occupational entry qualifications, but will also include additional introductory sector knowledge, to support wider contextual understanding of the route, and transferable employability skills. These will be available to 16 to 19 and adult learners and will include the word “Extended” in the qualification title.

What is a technical specialist qualification?

A technical specialist qualification is another type of technical qualification. It allows a student to develop additional knowledge and competencies and specialise within a sector. These qualifications will build on knowledge covered by another occupational entry qualification. For example, a specialist qualification in early years nutrition might build on a larger early years practitioner qualification.

When will the first students take these new level 2 qualifications?

All the new level 2 qualifications that have been approved for public funding in England in cycle 1 will be available from 1 August 2025. This is the first date from which students can be enrolled on them. The timescale allows providers to prepare for delivery, including marketing the new qualifications to students.

Where funding will be removed from an existing qualification because it is being replaced by one of these new reformed qualifications, any students who are already enrolled on the existing qualification prior to 31st July 2025 will be able to continue to complete their qualification.

Will more approved qualifications be added to the level 2 list?

The list contains all the new qualifications at level 2 that have been approved for funding in England from August 2025 in cycle 1. It does not, however, provide a full overview of all publicly funded qualifications in England at level 2. The full list is available in the [List of](#)

[Qualifications approved for funding](#). This list will be updated in early autumn 2024 to include these new qualifications.

Where can I find more information on the new level 2 qualifications?

Awarding organisations will publish information on the new qualifications on their websites. We encourage you to contact awarding organisations directly if you have any questions about their qualifications.

Will the new level 2 qualifications be funded for both 16–19-year-olds and adults?

This depends on what the awarding organisation asked for when they proposed the qualification and what is possible under the different funding offers. You will be able to see the funding approval position of a qualification by looking it up on [Find a learning aim](#). Please be aware that there will be slight gap between the list appearing in our [information and support for providers on qualifications reform](#) and Find a learning aim.

Using the new qualifications

Qualifications at level 2 that are being defunded

Where can I see the list of level 2 qualifications that are having public funding withdrawn through cycle 1 of the reforms?

On 31 July 2025 public funding will be removed from those existing qualifications that awarding organisations have told us will be replaced by new reformed qualifications. These qualifications will have a public funding end date of 31 July 2025. This will be reflected in DfE's [List of Qualifications approved for funding](#) on gov.uk.

Will there be any gaps in provision?

As we are only removing funding at this stage from qualifications that are being directly replaced by new, reformed qualifications we do not anticipate any gaps in provision.

Keeping up to date

How can I keep up to date with the latest information or guidance you are sharing?

We will share everything, or a link to anything we publish elsewhere on GOV.UK, in our [information and support for providers on qualifications reform](#).

We publish a monthly update which you can find on the [Qualifications Reform news and updates](#). You can see the latest update there as well as past updates. If you would like to be added to the mailing list for the monthly update, send your request by signing up here [Post 16 Qualification Reform Updates](#).

You can also send a general query to qualifications.approval@education.gov.uk.



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