



Department
for Education

Health and Science FAQs (including Social Care)

THESE QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN FROM OUR WIDER [FAQ DOCUMENT](#)

What are the outcomes from the Review of Qualifications Reform in the Health and Science route?

In the Health and Science route, all learners on the [Health T Level](#) develop the core knowledge and skills that are needed for entry to a range of health occupations, offering a structured pathway for learners. In the Health and Science route, we recognise that there is a need for qualifications that are aligned with the occupational standards in the Care Services route, and as a result, we will retain funding for 9 qualifications in health and social care until new qualifications in adult social care can be introduced.

Beyond this, we will also retain funding for 11 qualifications in science-related subjects (including Applied Science, Forensics and Dental Technology) to give learners more options until reformed qualifications can be introduced. Retained qualifications in this route will remain funded in 2025–26, at which point the department's expectation is that the combination of A levels, T Levels and reformed qualifications will meet the needs of learners in this route, with the exception of the large qualifications in Applied and Forensic Science which may need to be retained for longer to allow for reformed options to be developed. These qualifications can be viewed by clicking this [link](#).



Some level 3 sports courses are set to be defunded because personal training routes are linked to the health pathways, however the Health T Level doesn't enable learners to practice personal training or gym instruction. What is the rationale for removing these sports courses?

Qualifications are having public funding removed either where learning is covered by a T Level or an alternative qualification, including a new, reformed qualification that will become available for delivery from 1 August 2025. This includes new 12 qualifications in sport, leisure and recreation, and you can find these qualifications [here](#).

Can you confirm that the AAQ will be the only Applied Science option for the 2025/26 academic year?

We know that applied science is a popular route for learners to take at level 3, in the health and science route. In addition to the new AAQs in applied science and medical science we have also extended funding for existing qualifications in applied science both 720 and 1080 GLH in size for the 2025/26 academic year.





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When will we receive more information about medium (540 GLH) and large (720–1080 GLH) AAQ qualifications in health and science? Will large AAQs be considered in the future?

We have announced that we will invite awarding organisations to submit further small AAQs and technical qualifications in the spring in health and science, to be funded from 2026 in addition to those new qualifications already approved for delivery from 2025. We will publish information on further reforms, including information on plans for medium and large qualifications following the conclusions of the Curriculum and Assessment Review. The government has, however, been clear that we will not fund large qualifications of 720 GLH and above in T Level routes.



Will the defunding of large health and care qualifications take effect at the beginning or the end of the 2026 academic year? Specifically, will learners be able to start these programmes in September 2026?

If a qualification is defunded in 2026, it will not be available for new enrolments from 1 August 2026 onwards. We expect the currently funded qualifications in health and social care to have public funding removed on 31 July 2026 and new reformed qualifications covering social care to come on stream from 1 August 2026. Please note there are also new small AAQs covering Health and Social Care that will come on stream from 1 August 2025.





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Why is a blanket decision to defund large qualifications that overlap with T Levels being applied to health and social care when the option exists to include this qualification as part of the Curriculum and Assessment Review?

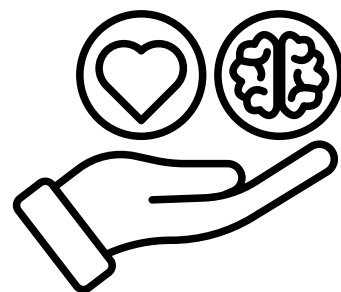
As the health and science and digital routes are already partially reformed, we think it is important to complete reforms in these routes in order to bring stability to these sectors at level 3. However, we acknowledge that until the reforms are complete, existing qualifications should be retained to meet the needs of learners. We expect reforms in these routes to be concluded by 1 August 2026.

When do you anticipate new qualifications in social care will be available and what size will they be?

Awarding Organisations will be able to submit new level 3 qualifications against occupational standards in the care services route in the spring submission round, approved qualifications will be available for first teaching in 2026. Technical qualifications can be any size if they meet the requirements of the occupational standard for the duration of the course of study. It will be for awarding organisations to design these qualifications based on the knowledge, skills and behaviours employers have built into the design of the standards in this route.

In addition to these future technical qualifications, we have also approved 4 new small AAQs in Health and Social Care that will come on stream from 1 August 2025.

[MORE
FAQS
HERE](#)





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We currently have small numbers of learners on T Levels, but in excess of 30 on the large AGQ in Health & Social Care. Our local hospital has limited us to 8 placements for midwifery and nursing. How will those learners find a course, if we can't provide placements for them in our local hospital?

With learner satisfaction rates at 78% and placement completion rates above 95%, industry placements are a unique selling point of T Levels. We have comprehensive support in place to help providers develop employer engagement strategies, supported by guidance and other practical resources. Over 800 members of our T Level Ambassadors Network are raising awareness and championing the benefits of placements in their industries. We also have a digital service available to help employers to find T Level providers. Health placements can be offered at a range of employers and are not limited to hospitals. These can include a wide range of settings such as care homes, primary care providers, specialist health services – providing learners with a chance to develop an understanding of the breadth and depth of roles available, including in social care, wider healthcare roles and in hospital settings.

The current large AGQs in these subjects do not offer industry placements. As an alternative to the T Level, there will also be a range of AAQs on offer at level 3 that will sit alongside A levels that learners wanting to pursue careers in nursing and midwifery could take. Large AGQs in Health and Social Care will also remain in the system for 2025. Alternatively, students can also take a mixed programme that includes a small AAQ in Health and Social Care which supports progression to university and on to nursing and Midwifery degree course

How does the plan to defund large qualifications (1080 GLH), for example in health and social care in 2026, fit with the mission to break down barriers to opportunity?

This government is committed to T Levels in available routes being the best quality large qualification of choice. In 2026, learners will be able to study the Health T Level as they can now, plus choose from small Alternative Academic Qualifications (AAQs) in Health and Social Care that will come on stream from 1 August 2025. The department will also shortly invite awarding organisations to submit new reformed technical qualifications in the Care Services route, which will also become available for teaching from 1 August 2026.

Technical qualifications are based on occupational standards with the knowledge, skills and behaviours (KSBs) that employers need, whereas existing health and social care qualifications are not designed in this way. With the introduction of new technical qualifications in Care Services from 2026, you and your learners can be confident they are studying KSBs that employers need. The qualifications available will provide a good range of choice for learners wishing to study health related subjects, or pursue a career in social care.

