

T Level Foundation Year Programme

What is the T Level Foundation Year programme?

The T Level Foundation Year programme is a one-year post-GCSE study programme designed to get students T Level ready. It is for young people who would benefit from additional study time and preparation the programme provides, before doing a T Level.

What can students expect from the programme?

The T Level Foundation Year Programme will help students develop knowledge, skills and behaviours across five key areas to prepare them for their chosen T Level subject area:

- Industry-relevant technical knowledge and skills
- Knowledge and skills for the workplace
- Positive attitude and behaviours
- Skills for successful study
- English, maths and digital skills

What are the entry requirements?

There are no set entry requirements for starting a T Level Foundation Year programme. Each college, school and independent learning provider sets their own requirements. For more information, check with the relevant school or college - you can search [Providers delivering T Levels and the T Level Foundation Programme](#) to see which ones are offering the T Level Foundation Year programme.

What does the programme involve?

There are 6 key delivery components of the T Level Foundation Year programme which are tailored to the needs of individual students:

- **Diagnostic, monitoring and guidance** - to assess students' capability and support needs in order to tailor their T Level Foundation Year programme to address these needs and help students decide which T Level route they want to prepare for.
- **English, maths and digital** – to develop the knowledge and skills of those students who do not hold at least a GCSE grade 4 in English and/or maths and lack basic digital skills.
- **Technical Knowledge and Skills** – to give students a broad introduction to their chosen T Level route through industry-relevant technical knowledge and practical skills.
- **Experience of the Workplace** - to prepare students for a T Level industry placement. Students undertake appropriate work experience activities and workplace preparation tailored to what each student needs, informed by an assessment of their work readiness.
- **Personal Development and Enrichment** - relevant and meaningful personal development and enrichment opportunities to support students to develop the study skills they will need for success on T Levels and the positive behaviours and key transferable skills for success in the workplace.
- **Pastoral support** – provision of responsive pastoral care; and develop knowledge and behaviours that promote wellbeing and support students' engagement with their learning on the programme

What subjects can students study?

There is a T Level Foundation Year programme to prepare students for each T Level subject area route, to provide a broad foundation to support progression onto any T Level in a subject area route. Students learn about the different T Levels and their career opportunities, so that they can decide on the right T Level for them. The subject areas are:

- Agriculture, Environmental and Animal Care
- Business and Administration
- Construction and the built environment
- Creative and Design
- Digital
- Education and Early Years
- Engineering and Manufacturing
- Health and Science
- Legal, Finance and Accounting
- Sales, Marketing and Procurement

What is the work experience involved?

To prepare for a T Level industry placement, all students are expected to undertake appropriate work experience activities and workplace preparation tailored to what each student needs, informed by an assessment of their work readiness. This will include high-quality work experience that:

- Includes as many meaningful interactions with real employers as possible during the programme, through a range of activities, for example mentoring, site visits, work tasters or shadowing.
- Includes an in-person placement with an external employer, wherever possible.
- Is related to their chosen T Level route where appropriate and feasible.

"You've got a lot more placement hours and the ability to do more practical learning instead of just sitting in classrooms writing. When I finish my Foundation Year this year, I'm going onto the T Level in Health next year"

Cassie, Health & Science, The TEC Partnership - Grimsby Institute of Further & Higher Education

What qualifications are offered on the programme?

Education providers decide what technical or other qualifications are offered on their T Level Foundation Year programmes as the specific details of the programme are set by the school, college or independent training provider. As English and maths are crucial employability skills and important for higher level study - including T Levels - if students need to continue to study for English and maths, they'll get time and support to do this. The local education provider will be able to advise on whether further study for GCSE or Functional Skills qualifications is required, based on students' prior attainment. All T Level Foundation Year programme providers are also T Level providers – students should speak to their local T Level provider to find out more.

What could this programme lead to?

It is the aim that on completion of the programme, students will progress to studying the T Level of their choice. T Levels have a broad range of potential progression outcomes. After T Levels, students could progress straight into a skilled job or continue their studies via an apprenticeship or higher technical qualification (HTQ) or university.

Where can students find out more?

Careers advisers will be able to help students to find out more and choose the option that best suits their aspirations for progression.

Students should contact their nearest T Level provider for details of the T Level Foundation Year programmes they offer.