Department for Education

Qualifications in Construction and the Built Environment

Construction T Levels

T Levels- Construction

In the Construction and the Built Environment route, two of the construction T Levels: Building Services Engineering for Construction, and Design, Surveying and Planning for Construction continue to grow and are meeting the needs of learners and the sector.

These T Levels are strong options because they offer a mix of technical knowledge, hands on experience and real-world industry placements, preparing learners for in-demand careers. They cover key areas like sustainability, digital design, project planning, and modern building systems, which are highly relevant in today's evolving construction industry. These qualifications also open doors to skilled employment, higher level apprenticeships, or higher education, giving learners flexibility in their career paths.

Why choose the Building Services Engineering for Construction T Level?

The Building Services Engineering for Construction T Level is a great option for learners because it offers:

- **In demand skills:** it teaches vital skills in electrical, plumbing, and Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems, which are essential for modern, energy efficient buildings and in high demand across the UK.
- **Real industry experience:** the T Level includes a 45-day industry placement, giving learners hands on experience with real employers, boosting their employability.
- **Clear career pathways**: it prepares learners for careers in construction, specifically in areas such as electric installation and maintenance, plumbing or heating, or further study, including apprenticeships or university.

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Level 3 Pathways in Construction and the Built Environment

Why choose the Design, Surveying and Planning for Construction T Level?

The Design, Surveying and Planning for Construction T Level is a strong option for learners because it offers:

- **Broad skill set:** this T Level covers essential areas like digital design, surveying, and project management, giving learners a strong foundation across multiple construction roles.
- **Industry relevant training:** with the 45-day industry placement, learners gain real world experience and insight into how construction projects are planned and delivered.
- **Progression opportunities:** it opens doors to careers in architecture, civil engineering, and site management, or further study through apprenticeships or university.

Myth Busting!

Myth: Construction T Levels are only for people who want to be builders.

Myth busted: Construction T Levels go far beyond traditional building roles. They include technical and professional pathways like surveying, architectural design, building services engineering, project planning, and digital construction.

Learners learn about modern construction methods, sustainability, and the use of cutting-edge technology like CAD (Computer-Aided Design), BIM (Building Information Modelling), and environmental systems. This qualification suits learners who are interested in creative, technical, or managerial roles within the built environment, not just those who want to work on-site.

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Myth Busting!

Myth: Construction is an outdated, low-skilled industry.

Myth busted: The construction industry is rapidly evolving and includes smart technology, green energy systems, digital infrastructure, and advanced materials. T Levels reflect this modern landscape by teaching future facing skills like sustainable building design, energy efficiency, and the use of data and digital tools in planning and construction. Learners are trained for careers that support net-zero goals a**nd smart city developments, making this one of the most innovative sectors.**

Myth: Industry placements in the Construction sector are hard to arrange and don't provide meaningful opportunities for learners.

Myth Busted: Some people believe that industry placements in the Construction T Levels are too long, hard to arrange, or only involve basic tasks, but that's not the case. Placements are designed to be flexible, typically spread over 45 days, and tailored to fit around the learner. They provide meaningful, hands-on experience in real construction roles, not just tea-making or labouring.

Opportunities aren't limited to large companies, many local small and medium-sized employers offer excellent placements, often with closer mentoring. With strong support from colleges and employers, placements help students build real world skills and confidence in the modern construction industry.

Find out more using T Level Industry Placement Guidance which was updated in January 2025 to offer more flexibility for students and employers.

'I'm going to do a degree apprenticeship with Gallagher Group as I always knew from a young age that I wanted to work in the construction industry.

My placement went above and beyond to make sure I got value out of what I was doing and could develop my knowledge. It helped me to overcome questions and give me skills I didn't know I needed. It opened my eyes to the different routes I can take in my career.

I would recommend doing a T Level if you want a practical job to go with your college-based learning.'

Hear from Sydney Miller: Design, Surveying and Planning for Construction T Level learner from Mid Kent College

Explore more resources

Amaris T Level video

Construction and the Built Environment – T Levels and industry placement support for employers

Progression and Retention with a Large Employer: the case of Galliford Try – T Levels and industry placement support for employers

T Level Industry Placements in the Electrical Industry – T Levels and industry placement support for employers

Destination case study: Construction - Technical Education Networks

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Exploring Alternative pathways in Construction and Built Environment

While T Levels provide a comprehensive blend of theoretical knowledge and practical experience, alternative pathways can offer a range of options for learners 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 learners who would benefit from the additional study time and preparation before they start their T Level. It includes a diagnostic period to identify the learner's development, learning and support needs and help them make an informed choice about their chosen T Level route.

Apprenticeships: Hands-on learning

For learners seeking practical, workplace-based training, apprenticeships offer a valuable alternative. Apprenticeships, such as a trade apprenticeship, training to become a carpenter, plumber or electrician, provide practical experience while earning a qualification, aligning with both industry needs and individual career goals.

Alternative Academic Qualifications (AAQs)

Learners have the option to pursue an Alternative Academic Qualification (AAQ) in this area. AAQs are available for first teach from 2025, and there may be more approved for 2026 onwards.

Designed primarily to support entry into Higher Education, AAQs also provide a strong foundation to continue onto apprenticeships and work. 60% of their content is mandated by the awarding organisation but 40% can be made up of optional components which provide opportunity to meet differing learner needs. They contain space for applied learning as well as more traditional academic learning, and they provide scope for a variety of assessment methods, further meeting the individual needs of learners.

The small AAQ available in this route is the equivalent of one A level (360 GLH) and learners could study this small AAQ in Building and Construction alongside A levels in subjects such as Design and Technology and Business Studies, to lead to a career in Quantity Surveying or Construction Management. Together with enrichment activities, that could include work experience and a core maths qualification, this would prepare learners for a pathway for those who wish to progress to study at level 4 and above in Higher Education.

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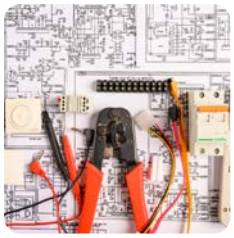
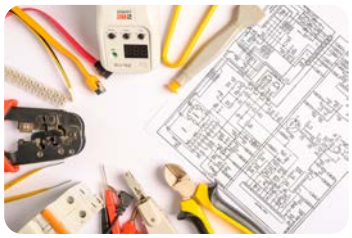
Exploring Alternative pathways in Construction and the Built Environment

Level 2 Reformed Technical Qualifications

At level 2, there are here are 21 Technical Occupational Entry Qualifications available in the Construction and Built environment route, ranging from painting and decorating to plant operations, available from 1 August 2025:

Technical Occupational Entry Qualifications- these align with level 2 occupational standards and help learners move into employment. Extended Occupational Entry Qualifications are slightly larger, including the same technical content plus extra sector knowledge and employability skills. They are available for both 16-19 and adult learners and include "Extended" in the title.





Level 3 Reformed Technical Qualifications

Newly reformed technical qualifications are also available to be taught for the first time from 1 August 2025 the Construction and Built Environment route. These include Technical Occupational Entry qualifications and Additional Specialist qualifications.

Technical Occupational Entry qualifications deliver competence against an occupational standard and these qualifications aim to support a learner to enter, or to progress within, a role.

Technical Occupational Additional Specialist qualifications are specialist level 3 technical qualifications, which go beyond the contents of an occupational standard and allow a learner to develop additional knowledge and competencies and specialise within a sector. These qualifications will build on knowledge covered by a T Level or other occupational entry qualification.

There are 6 Reformed Technical Qualifications available in the Construction and Built Environment route for first teach 1 August 2025.