



Department
for Education

Department for Education | Skills Group

Sector expert – Qualification design and delivery

Secondment Opportunity | Further Education Sector | 4–6 Months

The 16-19 Level 2 and 3 Qualification reform programme is entering a crucial phase of design, testing, and implementation. To ensure the reforms are deliverable, provider informed, and grounded in operational realities, the Department for Education is seeking a small number secondees from the Further Education (FE) sector.

About the Role

This is an opportunity for experienced school or college leaders to directly influence and shape the future of Level 2 foundation certificates, Level 2 occupational certificates, and Level 3 V Levels.

You will work as an embedded member of the qualification design and delivery teams and work on occupational certificates, foundation certificates or V levels. Where you have a particular interest, there may also be opportunities to contribute to T Levels.

You will bring practical, up-to-date knowledge to support readiness work currently underway. Your exact role will be agreed with you, but could for example include producing guidance for providers, facilitating feedback from students about the qualification reforms or producing exemplars that others can learn from.

Key Responsibilities

- Apply provider side curriculum and programme design expertise to inform qualification models and content for Level 2 and/or 3.
- Support the development of implementation guidance, resource packs, and practical delivery materials.
- Participate in testing, consultation, and iterative refinement of qualification content.
- Provide operational insight into deliverability of new qualifications.

- Engage with provider networks to gather feedback and communicate reform messages clearly.
- Identify emerging risks or barriers to implementation and recommend workable mitigations.
- Ensure alignment with broader qualification reform initiatives while maintaining clarity and focus on Level 2 and 3 deliverables.

Please indicate in your application whether you would be willing to work on Level 2, Level 3 or both (including whether you have an interest in T Levels).

Secondment Details

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| Duration | 4 months minimum; ideally 6 months. Term-time only arrangements will be considered. |
| Commitment | Minimum 3 days per week. |
| Existing job role | We are not specifying a specific level or salary for this post, but would suggest that someone working as a curriculum lead or assistant head/assistant CEO/assistant principal would be suited to apply |
| Location | Remote working or from a DfE office (Coventry, London, Sheffield or Manchester). Some travel may be required. |
| Pay | You will remain employed by and on your home organisation's payroll. There will be no additional costs to your institution. Travel and subsistence can be claimed in line with DfE policy. |
| Equipment | DfE IT equipment will be provided. |
| Conduct | Secondees are required to observe the principles of the Civil Service Code and relevant DfE policies on conduct, confidentiality, security and political activities. |

Who We're Looking For

We're looking for experienced school or college leaders with current responsibility for hands-on curriculum planning and delivery for Level 2 and/or Level 3 technical and vocational provision. You will need to be able to demonstrate:

- Current experience as an FE practitioner or leader, with strong knowledge of Level 2 and/or Level 3 technical and vocational qualification provision and curriculum planning.
- The ability to translate policy concepts into practical, provider-friendly models.
- Strong communication and stakeholder engagement skills.

- Confidence navigating ambiguity, problem-solving, and contributing to emerging policy.
- The ability to take a systems-level view of how reforms interact with wider programmes.
- Enthusiasm to work for the benefit of the sector and learn from best practice locally to support national solutions.
- Comfort working at pace in a multidisciplinary environment.

How to Apply

Important: Before applying, please ensure you have the support of your educational institution.

To express your interest, please submit the following by midnight on Tuesday 21 April 2026:

- A CV — covering your education, training and professional qualifications, employment history, and relevant skills and experience.
- A personal statement of no more than 750 words demonstrating how you meet the essential criteria above, with examples.
- A note of whether you are applying to work on Level 2 qualifications, Level 3 qualifications, or both (and whether you have an interest in working on T Levels).

**Please send your expression of interest to:
post16level2and3.delivery@education.gov.uk**

Timeline

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| Expression of interest deadline | Midnight, Tuesday 21 April 2026 |
| Shortlisting | Week commencing 20 April 2026 |
| Interviews | Likely week commencing 4 May 2026 (via Microsoft Teams) |
| Expected start | As soon as possible following appointment |

Questions?

If you have any questions about this opportunity before applying, please contact the team at: post16level2and3.delivery@education.gov.uk