



HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF ENGINEERING AND MANUFACTURING

Engineering and manufacturing organisations need future talent with technical curiosity, problem-solving skills and the confidence to work in fast-moving environments.

T Levels give employers the chance to work with young people interested in engineering, manufacturing, production, maintenance, design and technical support, helping them understand how engineering and manufacturing businesses operate in practice.

You do not need to offer a full placement straight away. You can start small, build confidence and become part of a student's journey.

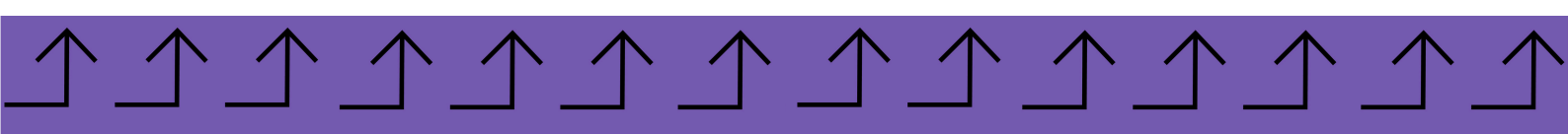
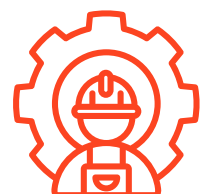
Shape the future workforce you need

T Levels are a two-year programme where students learn through a planned combination of classroom learning and real work.

Students will be prepared through their course and will bring developing knowledge, skills and interest in the sector. Like apprentices, they will continue to build confidence and capability through learning, support and real work experience.

Whether your organisation needs future engineers, technicians, production staff, maintenance operatives or manufacturing support colleagues, or the people behind the scenes who keep operations running, from planning and procurement to logistics, quality assurance, administration and digital systems, T Levels can help you build the workforce you need.

Through a T Level industry placement, employers can introduce young people to real work gradually, help them understand workplace expectations and start to identify future talent early.



Why employers get involved

By working with a T Level student, you can:

- build a stronger route into future apprenticeships, employment or training
- bring fresh ideas, technical curiosity and digital confidence into your organisation
- develop your existing staff through mentoring and supervision
- help young people understand the realities of engineering and manufacturing work
- support your local community and future workforce

“We didn’t just host a student. We helped shape someone who could become part of our future workforce.”

Help young people see what is possible

Many young people do not realise the range of careers available across modern engineering and manufacturing.

They may not realise how much industries now involve digital systems, problem-solving, teamwork, planning, quality assurance, communication and sustainability alongside technical and practical skills. Employers can help change that.

By getting involved, you can:

- inspire young people
- challenge outdated perceptions of engineering and manufacturing careers
- show the variety of roles available in your organisation
- help students understand how products, systems and processes are designed, built and maintained
- support better choices about future careers

“Young people are much more likely to choose and stick with a pathway when they can see what it could lead to.”

Start small. Build confidence. Grow from there.

You do not need to do everything at once. Many employers begin with a small, manageable activity and build from there as confidence grows.

You could start by:

- talking to students about your industry or taking part in a careers event
- offering a workplace visit, work taster or short project
- supporting a student on an industry placement, such as one day a week, a short block or a project shared across a team
- offering further experience, an apprenticeship, seasonal work or a future job opportunity

The right approach depends on what works for your organisation, your projects and the support you can offer.

What could a placement look like?

There is no single model. Placements can be designed around your organisation, the type of work involved and the support you can offer.

Students could contribute to:

- production, assembly or workshop activity
- maintenance preparation, testing or inspection activity
- CAD, technical drawings or digital design work
- stock control, materials handling or logistics activity
- quality assurance, recording or process checking
- research, reporting or continuous improvement projects
- planning, administration or project support linked to engineering or manufacturing operations

Placements can be adapted to reflect the student's confidence, prior experience and readiness, allowing students to take on more responsibility over time.



What this can look like in practice

These examples show how different organisations could start with manageable activities that fit their setting and build from there.



Manufacturing business

A student joined one day each week, supporting production records, stock activity, quality checks and day-to-day workshop organisation.



Engineering company

A student contributed to technical drawings, testing activity, project support and digital documentation linked to live engineering work.



Smaller employer

The organisation started with a workplace visit and a short technical challenge before offering a placement later in the year.

T Levels and apprenticeships work together

T Levels and apprenticeships are not in competition. A T Level industry placement gives you the chance to get to know a student before making any recruitment decision. If the fit is right, it can become a natural route into an apprenticeship, employment or a future role.

Today's T Level student could be tomorrow's engineer, technician, production operative, maintenance apprentice, CAD designer or manufacturing support colleague.

T Levels and apprenticeships work together

You do not need to have all the answers or commit to everything immediately. Start with a conversation with your local T Level school or college about what could work for your organisation.