



HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF CREATIVE AND DESIGN INDUSTRIES

Creative and design organisations need future talent with ideas, curiosity, technical skills and the confidence to contribute in fast-moving environments.

T Levels give employers the chance to work with young people interested in design, fashion, textiles, furniture making, jewellery production, digital content, media, production and creative project work, helping them understand how creative industries 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.

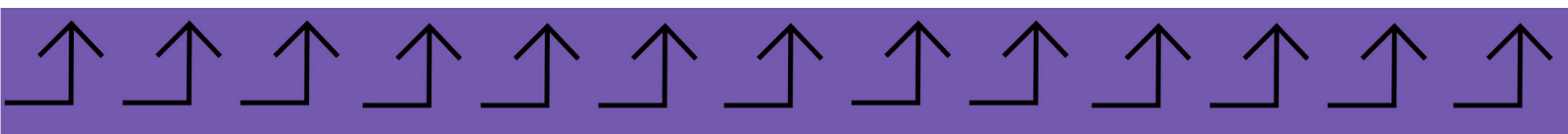
Shape the future workforce you need

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 designers, makers, production assistants, content creators, marketing staff, digital creatives or project support colleagues, or the people behind the scenes who keep creative projects and businesses moving, from administration and scheduling to client communication, logistics, digital systems and business support, 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, freelance opportunities, employment or training
- bring fresh ideas, creativity and digital confidence into your organisation
- develop your existing staff through mentoring and supervision
- help young people understand the realities of creative work and creative careers
- 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 are interested in creative industries but do not fully understand the range of careers available or how creative work is developed, produced and delivered in practice.

They may not realise how much these industries rely on technical skills, planning, communication, collaboration, customer understanding, production processes and business skills alongside creativity.

By getting involved, you can:

- inspire young people
- challenge stereotypes about creative careers
- show the variety of roles available in your organisation
- help students understand how creative work happens in practice
- 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 creative work involved and the support you can offer.

Students could contribute to:

- design, making or creative project work
- product development, prototyping or production activity
- photography, video, editing or digital content creation
- research, mood boards or creative development
- events, campaigns or promotional activity
- social media, digital content or marketing support
- preparing materials, products or displays
- reviewing, presenting or developing ideas linked to live projects or creative briefs

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.



Creative studio or maker business

A student joined one day each week, supporting design research, preparing materials, developing ideas and contributing to client or production activity.



Fashion, textiles or jewellery business

A student supported product preparation, social media content, customer communication and creative development linked to live projects.



Events or production company

A student contributed to planning activity, digital promotion, scheduling and behind-the-scenes preparation for live events.

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 designer, production assistant, marketing executive, content creator, creative technician or business support colleague.

Interested?

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.