



# DESIGN, SURVEYING AND PLANNING FOR CONSTRUCTION

## What a Design, Surveying and Planning for Construction T Level student could bring to your organisation during an industry placement

T Level students are still learning. They are not expected to arrive with the confidence, technical skills or independence of an experienced employee or apprentice.

Instead, the placement is an opportunity for them to gradually build their confidence and understanding through real tasks, with support and supervision. For many employers, these students bring fresh ideas, strong digital skills and an extra pair of hands to support project and office-based activity. They can help with routine tasks, contribute to projects and give employers the chance to identify future talent early.

Every student and every workplace is different, but the examples in this guide give an indication of the kinds of activities, support and progression that are typical. Many employers tell us that what matters most at the start is not technical ability, but attitude, reliability, willingness to learn and the confidence to ask questions.

### Think of this student as someone who is:

- keen to learn
- interested in your business
- still building confidence
- likely to need support and reassurance at first
- capable of much more by the end of the placement than at the beginning



## Meet a typical student

Sophie Turner is 16 and studying Design, Surveying and Planning for Construction.

She enjoys organisation, planning and using digital tools. She is interested in design and project work but has not worked in a professional environment before.

She is thoughtful and organised but may need support to build confidence speaking in meetings or asking questions.

At college, she has learned about drawings, planning, project management and how construction teams work together. She is keen to understand what these roles look like in practice.

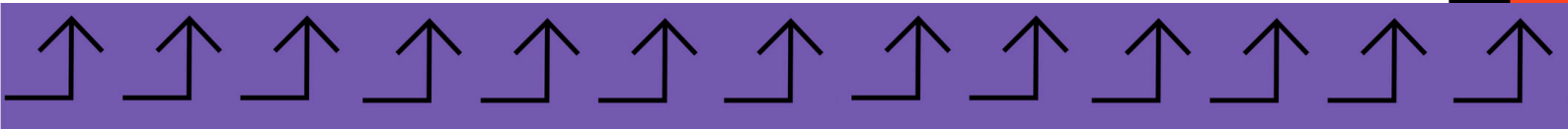


## What students are likely to know already

Before starting a placement, most students are likely to have developed some knowledge and experience through their T Level course and practical activities in college.

- an understanding of construction drawings, plans and terminology
- experience of using email, spreadsheets and simple digital tools
- some knowledge of planning, surveying and project management
- an understanding of how different construction roles work together
- experience of carrying out simple research or project work in college

They will still need help applying this knowledge in a real workplace. Employers should not expect them to arrive knowing how each organisation's systems, documents or processes work.



At the start of the placement	With support and supervision	By the end of the placement
Understand simple drawings and project information	Support site visits, surveys or project planning	Complete routine project support tasks more independently
Use email, spreadsheets and simple digital tools	Help update drawings, schedules or project documents	Produce simple documents, plans or reports
Follow instructions and complete simple office tasks	Work with different teams and attend meetings	Take responsibility for updating a project tracker, organising documentation or supporting one element of a project
Take notes and ask questions during meetings or visits	Support procurement, planning or administration	Communicate more confidently with colleagues and customers
Observe site activity and follow site rules and safety instructions	Attend site visits and assist with recording observations or progress updates	Contribute more confidently to site meetings, progress tracking or reporting activities



## Example tasks and projects

The kinds of activities below are examples of the ways a student could contribute to your organisation during a placement:

- support project files and documentation
- help update drawings, schedules or spreadsheets
- accompany staff on site visits to observe how projects progress in practice
- keep a simple site or project diary to reflect on learning and activities
- assist with procurement, planning or administration
- support project meetings and communication
- help with a small project linked to a real contract or business challenge

These tasks should be agreed in line with the student's confidence, readiness and the level of supervision available. Many employers find students can provide useful support with project coordination, document management and routine organisational tasks, while also learning how the wider business works.

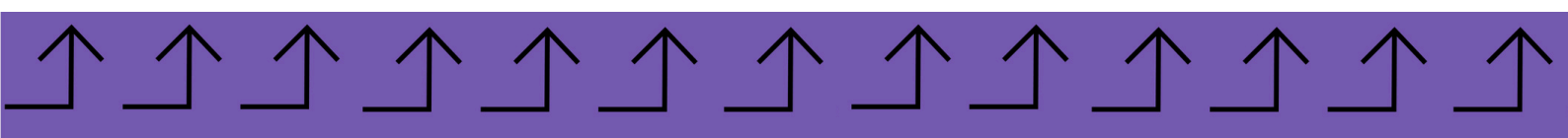


## What a first week might look like

Many employers tell us that the first week is mainly about helping the student settle in and understand how your organisation works, rather than expecting them to contribute immediately.

The first few days of a placement are often about helping the student build confidence, get to know the team and understand how projects are managed.

Some employers may also choose to arrange a short introductory visit or informal meet-and-greet before the placement begins, helping the student feel more confident before their first day.



### **Week 1 could include:**

- meeting the team and understanding different roles
- an introduction to current projects and how they are managed
- learning how drawings, plans and project documents are used
- attending a site visit, meeting or project briefing
- helping with simple administration, filing or document control
- supporting a small task with clear instructions and guidance

Many employers find placements work best when the student has a named person or mentor they can go to with questions, particularly during the early stages of the placement.

### **What a successful placement could look like by the end**

By the end of the placement, many students are able to work with greater confidence, contribute more independently and take on more responsibility.

### **For example, they may be able to:**

- manage simple project administration tasks independently
- contribute to project documents, schedules or plans
- understand how construction projects are organised and delivered
- communicate more confidently with colleagues and customers
- take responsibility for a small task or project with limited supervision
- present a short summary, reflection or project update to colleagues and their tutor



## What support students may need

Like any new member of staff, students are likely to benefit from some support and guidance, particularly at the start of the placement.

### This may include:

- clear explanation of technical language and processes
- clear guidance around site rules, access arrangements and health and safety expectations\*
- examples of how documents and systems are used
- opportunities to ask questions
- regular feedback and reassurance
- support to build confidence communicating with new people



*The school or college will discuss and agree any site access, PPE, CSCS/card requirements and site induction arrangements before the student attends a site visit.*

The level of support needed should reduce over time as the student becomes more familiar with the workplace, the team and the tasks they are being asked to complete.



### A quick reality check

It is important to remember that students are still learning.

At the beginning of the placement, they are unlikely to be ready to:

- make technical decisions independently
- manage a project or client relationship alone
- produce detailed technical drawings or costings without support
- work without guidance or supervision



## How T Levels can link to an apprenticeship, university or future jobs

For many employers, a T Level placement can be the start of a longer-term talent pipeline.

### It may help a student progress into:

- a construction design and build technician apprenticeship
- a surveying technician apprenticeship
- a digital engineering technician apprenticeship
- a project support or administration role
- further study in construction, surveying, planning or the built environment
- university study linked to architecture, surveying, construction management, planning or civil engineering
- employment within construction, design, surveying, planning or project support roles.

