Department for Education

V LEVELS T-LEVELS

Progressing to higher education

Choosing what to study after GCSEs is an important decision, but young people don’t need to have their whole future mapped out at 16.

From 2027, post-16 qualifications are being organised into clearer academic, technical and vocational routes. The aim is to make it easier for young people and their families to understand what the different choices offer and where they could lead.



A Levels offer academic study, T Levels offer specialist technical study alongside an industry placement, and new V Levels will offer vocational study that can be combined with other V Levels, A Levels or existing qualifications.

A Levels

Academic study

T Levels

Specialist technical study alongside an industry placement

V Levels

Vocational study that can be combined with A Levels or other V Levels.

Next steps

- Higher education
- An apprenticeship
- Employment

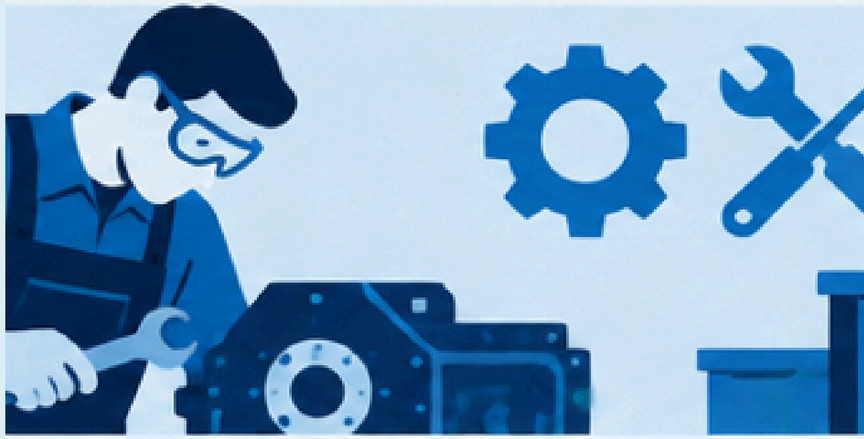
Whichever route a young person chooses, there are opportunities to progress. This could include higher education, an apprenticeship or employment.

Keeping future options open

Every young person is different. Some will already know what they would like to do in the future, while others will want to keep their options open.

Technical and vocational qualifications can lead to higher education as well as to apprenticeships and employment. DfE is working with universities, UCAS and Universities UK so that higher education providers understand T Levels and the new V Levels, including what students learn and the knowledge and skills they develop.







T Levels and Higher Education

T Levels are already helping young people progress to higher education.

More than **200** higher education providers across Great Britain accept T Levels for at least one course, including the majority of Russell Group universities. In the 2025 admissions cycle, **81%** of T Level students who applied to higher education secured a place, compared with **76%** across all UCAS applicants.

DfE is continuing to work with higher education providers to increase understanding and recognition of T Levels. This includes looking at subject-specific entry requirements, helping universities understand how T Level content relates to higher education courses, and building awareness of new T Levels.

DfE is also working with employers and providers to strengthen progression from T Levels into higher apprenticeships and to improve understanding of how T Level learning relates to occupational standards.



V LEVELS

What are V Levels?

V Levels are new vocational qualifications. The first V Levels will be available from September 2027 in:

- Accounting and Finance
- Digital Systems and Data
- Education

Each V Level will be the same size as an A Level. Students will be able to combine V Levels with other V Levels, A Levels and existing qualifications, giving them flexibility to choose a programme that reflects their interests, strengths and future plans.



Supporting progression from V Levels to higher education

Universities are involved in developing V Levels, well before the first students start applying to higher education.

More than **30** university subject leads were involved in developing the first three V Level subjects. DfE has also established a **Technical and Vocational Qualifications Higher Education Network**, bringing together universities, Universities UK, UCAS and awarding organisations.

This will help universities understand what students studying V Levels will learn, the knowledge and skills they will bring with them, and how they will help a student progress into their higher education courses. We have already seen universities say that they anticipate accepting V Levels alongside A Levels for many of their courses.

Universities will continue to set their own entry requirements for individual courses, so young people should always check the requirements for the universities and courses they are interested in.

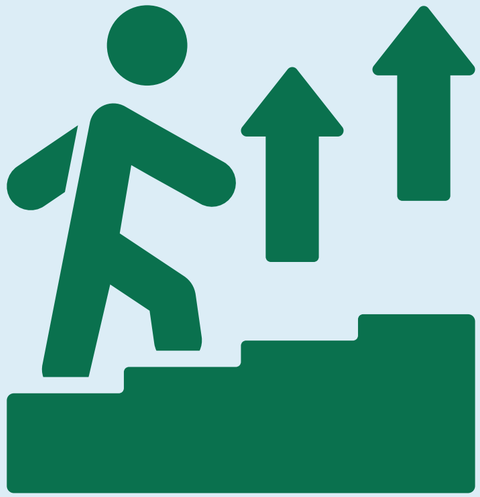


UCAS Tariff Points

V Levels at grades A* to E will attract the same UCAS Tariff points as A Levels at the corresponding grades, giving students, families and universities a familiar way of understanding their value when considering progression.

V Level grade	Proposed UCAS Tariff Points
A*	56
A	48
B	40
C	32
D	24
E	16
P	12





What does this mean for a young person?

Young people have different strengths, interests and ambitions, and the clearer post-16 routes are designed to help families understand what each choice offers and where it could lead.

Whether a young person chooses academic, technical or vocational learning, there are opportunities to progress and build towards their future.

And if university is part of their ambition, technical and vocational qualifications can provide a route into higher education too.

