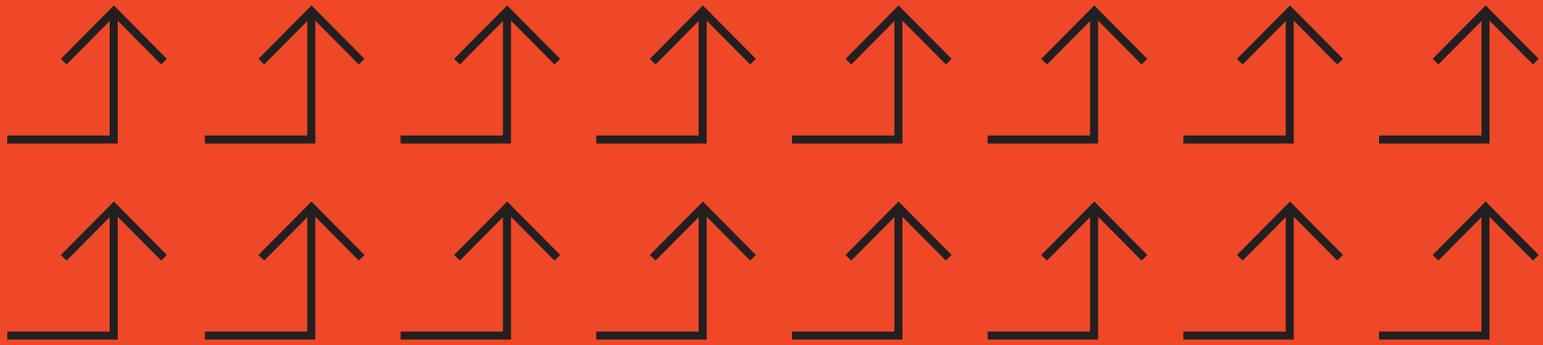


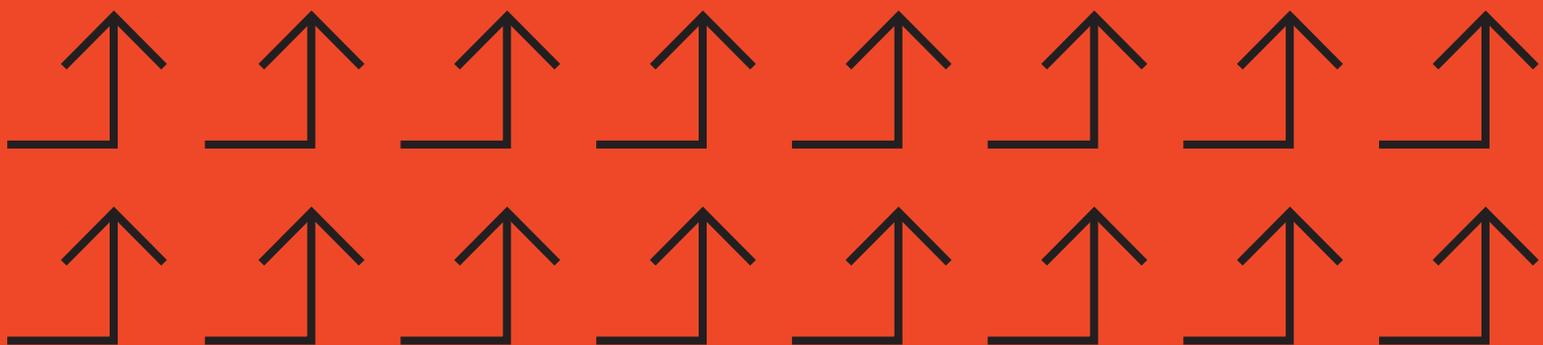
TEACHERS PACK V3
APRIL 2021



T-LEVELS

THE NEXT LEVEL QUALIFICATION

A NEW CAREER-FOCUSSED ALTERNATIVE TO A LEVELS



HM Government

PURPOSE OF THIS PACK

This pack has been created to provide information on T Levels - a new employer-designed, technical alternative to A levels comprising 80% classroom study and 20% on a meaningful industry placement.

This pack is for **teachers and careers staff**, equipping them with the information needed to understand the new courses and be able to engage with parents and pupils about T Levels.

An accompanying presentation and script have been created for teachers and careers staff to use when delivering presentations about T Levels, visit: www.amazingapprenticeships.com/TLevels

Contents

1)	Introduction to T Levels	03
2)	Why T Levels?	04
3)	Which kind of students might want to do T Levels?	05
4)	Key facts about T Levels	06
5)	Structure of a T Level	08
6)	Industry placements	10
7)	Testimonials	11
8)	How do T Levels compare with other post-16 options	13
9)	Phasing of T Levels & possible destination roles & careers	14
10)	Frequently Asked Questions	16
11)	Useful resources and links	18

Further information:

- ↑ For T Level resources for teachers, including the 'What are T Levels?' film, visit www.amazingapprenticeships.com/TLevels
- ↑ T Level website plus how to find your nearest T Level provider, visit www.tlevels.gov.uk
- ↑ For information on the introduction of T Levels on gov.uk, visit www.gov.uk/dfes/t-levels
- ↑ For course content and consultations, visit The Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education <https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/t-levels>

Contact us

If you require further information or guidance on T Levels, please contact us (we aim to answer all enquiries within 5 working days) tlevel.delivery@education.gov.uk

INTRODUCTION TO T LEVELS

WHAT ARE T LEVELS?

T Levels are a new qualification choice that follow GCSEs and give students a head start towards the career they want. They will suit students who wish to start working towards a skilled occupation, prefer a **practical approach** to learning and want a predominantly classroom-based course.

Drawing on features of the world's best technical education systems, these 2-year courses have been designed in partnership with employers to ensure students gain the knowledge, skills and experience businesses need so they are ready to get good jobs when they qualify.

Drawing on features of the world's best technical education systems

WHAT DO T LEVELS INCLUDE?

T Levels combine classroom learning, practical skills development and a substantial industry placement and will support progression into skilled employment, an apprenticeship or into further related study. Each T Level begins with core theory, concepts and skills relating to an industry or skill area and students will then be able to choose one or more occupational specialism(s).

WHEN DID T LEVELS START?

Selected colleges and other post-16 providers began teaching the first T Levels in September 2020. More courses will rollout in a greater number of providers over the next three years.



WHY T LEVELS?

WHY DO WE NEED T LEVELS?

A key priority for the government is to deliver world-class technical education to help address the skills gap and boost economic productivity. Developing a skilled home-grown workforce is more important than ever and T Levels play a key role in this.

There is currently a large array of technical and vocational qualifications available which can be confusing for students and employers. Reforms to technical education aim to streamline the qualifications available, simplifying the landscape for students, teachers and employers.

T Levels aim to raise the prestige of technical education, which has often been seen as second best to the academic option. Designed by employers and with longer teaching hours and a substantial industry placement, these high-quality qualifications will ensure students have the skills and knowledge businesses are looking for.

Every single qualification approved for public funding is high quality, has a clear purpose, and supports progression

POST-16 QUALIFICATIONS REVIEW

Alongside T Levels, the government is reviewing qualifications at Level 3 and below to ensure that every single qualification approved for public funding is high quality, has a clear purpose, and supports progression to positive outcomes. This review, alongside the development of T Levels, is central to building a world-class technical education system.

The government wants as many young people as possible to benefit from T Levels, just as many thousands on the academic route already benefit from our world class, rigorous and internationally respected A levels. This is why they propose to remove funding for qualifications that overlap with T Levels and A levels in order to ensure clarity for students and employers.

The first stage consultation set out the principles for change. The second stage concluded in January 2021 and set out proposals for the groups of qualifications the government believes are needed alongside T Levels and A levels.



WHICH STUDENTS MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN TAKING A T LEVEL?

T Levels will suit those students who **know the industry or area of work they want to pursue** for a career, and like the idea of a predominantly classroom-based course but with a strong practical emphasis and time in the workplace.

They differ from apprenticeships which are predominantly work-based and focus more intensively on a particular role and from A levels which are academic and entirely classroom based.

Although T Levels are primarily designed for entry into skilled employment, they will also **allow progression to a higher apprenticeship or to further study** in a related area, including at university.

Since a T Level is equivalent to 3 A levels, it is important to recognise the amount and rigour of learning involved. For students who need extra support before starting a T Level, there is a 1-year transition programme.

LEARN MORE AT [TLEVELS.GOV.UK](https://www.tlevels.gov.uk) ↗ LEARN MORE AT [TLEVELS.GOV.UK](https://www.tlevels.gov.uk)



LEARN MORE AT [TLEVELS.GOV.UK](https://www.tlevels.gov.uk) ↗ LEARN MORE AT [TLEVELS.GOV.UK](https://www.tlevels.gov.uk)



KEY FACTS ABOUT T LEVELS

1. CAREER-LED

New, two-year technical courses to follow GCSEs, designed to get students work ready.

2. 80% STUDY / 20% WORK

Spend 80% of time in the classroom, learning the theory and practical skills, the other 20% on an industry placement putting this into action (minimum of 315 hours on placement).

3. DESIGNED BY AND FOR EMPLOYERS

Designed by employers to ensure students are learning the skills industry is looking for.

4. EQUIVALENT TO 3 A LEVELS

Nationally recognised qualification, with the top T Level grade (Distinction*) being equivalent to 3 A levels at A*.

5. UCAS POINTS

A T Level attracts UCAS tariff points so students can use the qualification in applying for higher education.

6. GCSE MATHS AND ENGLISH

If not already achieved, then students would need to achieve GCSE or Functional Skills maths and English.

7. WIDE RANGE OF EMPLOYERS

Around 250 employers have been involved in developing the T Level courses, ranging from small local businesses to large multinationals.

8. WHERE THEY TAKE PLACE

The classroom learning time will take place at a school, college or with a training provider.

Depending on the T Level, this is likely to include development of practical skills in specialist facilities. The industry placement will take place directly with an employer.

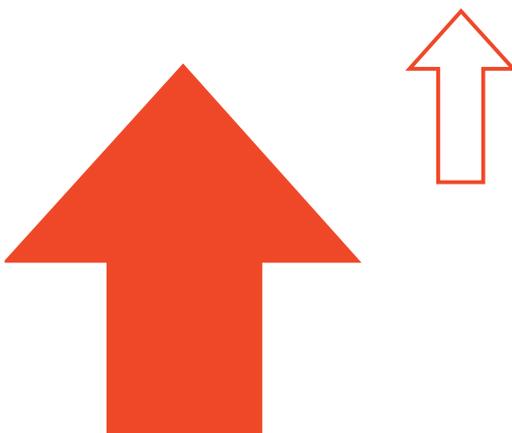
9. AVAILABLE AROUND THE COUNTRY

T Levels are available in England. The rollout started with a small number of providers, increasing over the next few years.

The first three courses launched in September 2020. They were Digital Production, Design and Development; Education and Childcare; and Design, Surveying and Planning for Construction. Find out more on page 14-15.

10. MORE COURSES COMING

There will be seven more T Levels from September 2021. Over the following years, more courses will be introduced and it's expected that all T Levels will be available from September 2023. Find the full list on page 14-15.



STRUCTURE OF A T LEVEL

To be awarded a T Level, students will need to complete the following three elements:

- 1) **Technical qualification**, which includes:
 - a. core theory, concepts and skills for that industry/sector
 - b. specialist skills and knowledge for an occupation
- 2) **Industry placement** with employer
- 3) **Minimum standard in English and maths** (Level 2 Functional Skills or GCSEs if not yet achieved) and digital skills if required.



STRUCTURE OF A T LEVEL

T Level certificates, awarded on successful completion of the course will be nationally recognised and include:

- ↗ The overall grade for the T Level - Distinction* to Pass
- ↗ Separate grade for the core component - A* to E
- ↗ Separate grades for each occupational specialism - Distinction, Merit or Pass.

It will also confirm that the student has:

- ↗ Achieved the minimum standards for English and maths
- ↗ Completed an industry placement
- ↗ Met any additional mandatory requirements, if applicable.

Students who do not pass all elements will get a **T Level statement of achievement** which will show the elements they have completed.



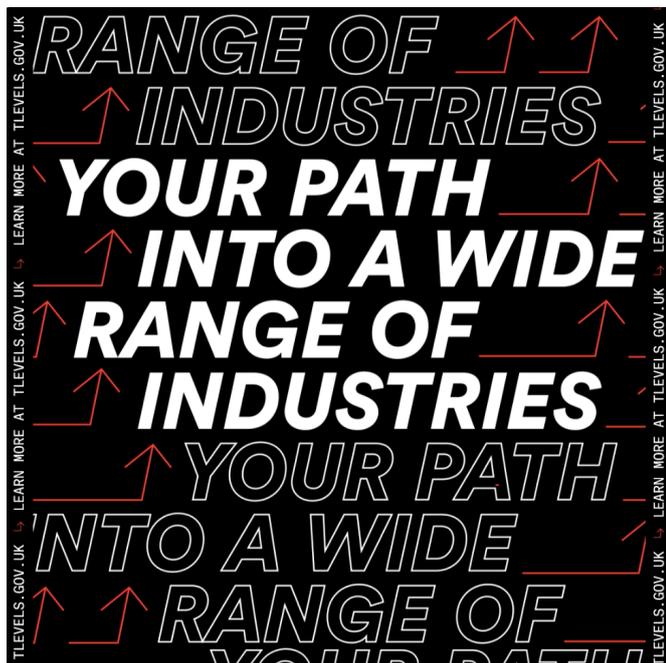
INDUSTRY PLACEMENT

A unique part of a T Level is the time students spend on an industry placement (minimum of 315 hours/ around 45 days) or around 20% of their course. This gives students an invaluable opportunity to put their new knowledge and skills into practice and understand the world of work.

Placements differ from traditional work experience as they are significantly longer and students are expected to complete meaningful work for the employer.

Individual employers and training providers agree how the placement will work – whether as a block of time, a series of day releases or a combination of both.

Students are not typically paid for their placement. However, the provider may be able to support some of the costs of placement.



WHAT TO EXPECT

Thousands of T Level-style industry placements have taken place in readiness for the rollout of T Levels and the feedback from both employers and students has been positive.

Students benefit by having the opportunity to:

- ↑ Put their studies into context and practice their developing skills in a real work environment
- ↑ Understand the world of work and start networking with potential future employers
- ↑ Gain real experience to put on their CV and talk about at interview
- ↑ Check that this is career they want to pursue

Employers benefit by:

- ↑ Spotting talented young people that they might want to recruit
- ↑ Bringing in new skills and extra resource for projects
- ↑ Upskilling existing staff through coaching and mentoring
- ↑ Creating a diverse workforce and supporting their community

TESTIMONIALS

TRAINING PROVIDERS AND COLLEGES

"This really is going to be the new gold standard qualification for people entering employment..."

The T Level is perfectly designed to help you hit the ground running when you start work."

Matt Reynolds, Vice Principal, Cirencester College

EMPLOYERS

"There is a huge shortage of talented young people entering technical careers, and Fujitsu has felt the effects of this. The lack of fresh talent entering the sector makes it increasingly difficult to secure enthusiastic new employees to fill the necessary talent pipeline. The introduction of T Levels will help alleviate this problem by enabling more students to enter the industry with the skills needed to succeed."

Tim Chapman, Lead for the Cyber Security Architecture and Design, Fujitsu

"With the ongoing skills shortages in both the construction trades and professions, industry placements give us a chance to see and work with young people as a shortcut in the recruitment process. Having spent nearly three months working with us, they are already part of the team and understand the company and how we work."

Bruce Boughton, Lovell Partnerships

"T Levels place an emphasis on hands on experience, which is why I was so keen to get involved in their development and help raise awareness of all they have to offer. When I'm hiring staff, I look for people who can hit the ground running and T Levels will give young people the skills they need to do just that."

Lee Stafford, Celebrity Hair Stylist

TESTIMONIALS

STUDENTS

"Since starting the Digital T-Level, I feel supported by the computing staff. They are friendly, helpful and always approachable for anything I need to know. I feel I can ask questions and I am learning new skills and knowledge that I can use in the workplace and put into context for my future career. The building I study in feels brand new and I am using PCs that are better than my computer at home. There is all the software I need available to me and even some that I have not yet used."

Levi (Digital Production, Design and Development T Level student)

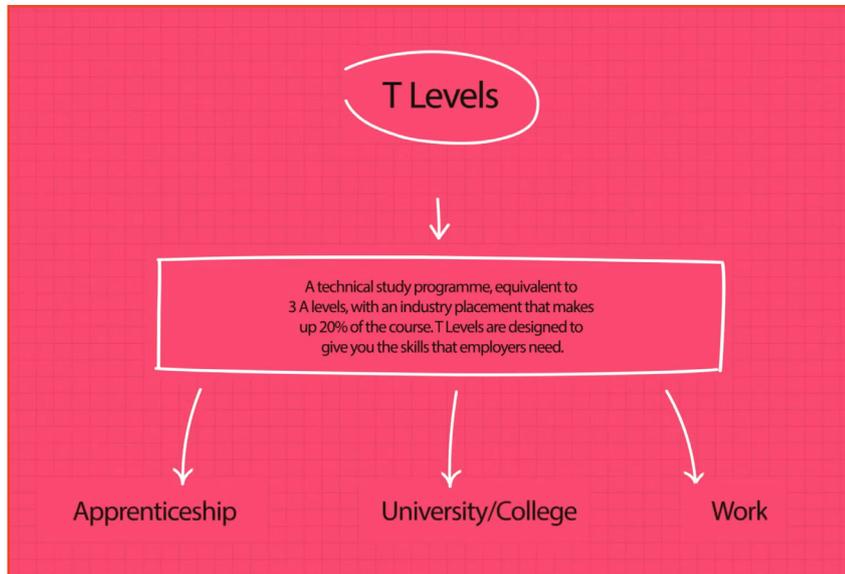
"I enjoy learning about the different types of education, such as the EYF and the different types of careers that studying Childcare can lead to. I also enjoy the research tasks that we are set as they allow me to learn more about the course and let me be creative. I would like to become a primary school teacher and the placement is really helping my development. Once I complete my course, I plan on going onto studying childcare further at University."

Kacey (Education & Childcare T Level student)



You can watch video interviews with industry placement students [here](#).

HOW DO T LEVELS COMPARE WITH OTHER POST 16 OPTIONS?



The Department for Education has developed a grid and animated film comparing the different options available to young people after GCSEs.

This can be accessed on the Careers and Enterprise Company [website](#). These resources have been developed for students and teachers.



You can watch the animated film comparing different options [here](#).



PHASING OF T LEVELS & POSSIBLE DESTINATION ROLES & CAREERS

SEPTEMBER 2020 START

- ↑ **Digital production, design and development** (software development technician, junior games designer)
- ↑ **Design, surveying and planning for construction** (civil engineering technician, digital engineering technician, construction site engineering technician)
- ↑ **Education & childcare** (early years educator, teaching assistant, learning mentor)

SEPTEMBER 2021 START

- ↑ **Building services engineering for construction** (installation electrician, maintenance electrician, plumbing & domestic heating technician)
- ↑ **Digital business services** (digital applications operator, IT solutions technician, digital marketer)
- ↑ **Digital support and services** (IT support, infrastructure technician)
- ↑ **Health** (dental nurse, senior healthcare support worker)
- ↑ **Healthcare science** (dental laboratory assistant, healthcare science assistant)
- ↑ **Onsite construction** (advanced site carpenter, advanced site joiner, construction assembly and installation operative)
- ↑ **Science** (laboratory technician, food technologist)



PHASING OF T LEVELS & POSSIBLE DESTINATION ROLES & CAREERS

SEPTEMBER 2022 START

- ↑ **Accounting** (assistant accountant, payroll administrator)
- ↑ **Design and development for engineering and manufacturing** (engineering/project technician)
- ↑ **Finance** (financial services administrator, mortgage adviser, investment operations technician)
- ↑ **Maintenance, installation and repair for engineering and manufacturing** (engineering technician, motor vehicle technician)
- ↑ **Management and administration** (business administrator, bid coordinator, business improvement technician)
- ↑ **Engineering, manufacturing, processing and control** (manufacturing technician, welder)

SEPTEMBER 2023 START

- ↑ **Agriculture, land management and production** (crop/fishery technician)
- ↑ **Animal care and management** (veterinary nurse, animal care assistant)
- ↑ **Catering** (chef de partie, senior production chef)
- ↑ **Craft and design** (ceramics/furniture maker, textiles/fashion maker)
- ↑ **Hair, beauty and aesthetics** (hairdressing, barbering, beauty therapy)
- ↑ **Human resources** (HR support, learning and development support)
- ↑ **Legal Services** (paralegal)
- ↑ **Media, broadcast and production** (junior journalist, editorial assistant)



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1) What does 'technical' training mean?

'Technical' education encompasses any training that focuses on progression into skilled employment and requires the acquisition of both a substantial body of knowledge and a set of practical skills valued by industry.

Technical education does not need to be linked to technical studies, science or digital, as is commonly believed. It can include social sciences, arts, humanities or any other sector.

2) What are the entry requirements?

These are set by the college, school or other learning provider and will vary across courses.

3) How do students apply?

Students need to apply directly to the provider. The T Level website www.tlevels.gov.uk/students/find has links to all providers offering T Levels starting in September 2020 and 2021. The website will be updated as more T Levels are rolled out.

FIND YOUR NEAREST T LEVEL

Search for colleges and schools who start delivering T Levels in 2020 and 2021

All T Level courses
▼

4) Can an A level be studied at the same time as a T Level?

We would be supportive of high attaining students who want to take an A level alongside their T Level. However, since T Levels involve more teaching time than most existing technical courses, the T Level provider will need to consider the impact on the student's timetable.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

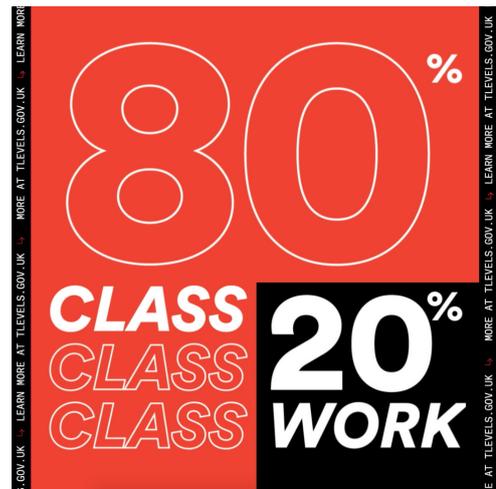
5) Do students get paid for the industry placement?

T Level industry placements are about providing students with high quality, meaningful training, not work. Employers are under no obligation to pay students but may choose to do so if they wish.

6) What's different between a T Level and an apprenticeship?

Apprenticeships are paid work, suitable for students who know what occupation they want to pursue and wish to train 'on the job' (80% in the workplace, 20% off the job).

T Levels are largely classroom based, with a substantive industry placement (80% in the classroom, 20% in the workplace)



T Levels will offer a broader course content but students will also specialise in a particular occupation. Apprenticeships content is narrower and focussed on a specific occupation from the outset.

7) Can students choose the employer for the work placement?

The T Level provider is responsible for sourcing the industry placement - however in some cases the provider may encourage students to research and self-source their preferred employers for their placements. Providers should help students to identify suitable employers that are relevant to their chosen specialism at the appropriate level

8) Will T Levels be suitable for students with special educational needs or disabilities?

We want as many students as possible to benefit from T Levels and there are flexibilities around the English and maths requirement and the industry placement to help students with SEND take part. For example students with SEND may be able to use providers' onsite facilities for the placement if appropriate.



USEFUL RESOURCES AND LINKS

- ↑ **'What are T Levels?' film**
 This short 6 minute film features a wide range of teachers, careers advisers, students and employers. Visit www.amazingapprenticeships.com/resource/what-are-tlevels-film
- ↑ **Powerpoint presentation**
 This presentation is designed to be used by teachers and careers professionals to inspire students, colleagues and parents about T Levels. Visit: www.amazingapprenticeships.com/TLevels
- ↑ **T Level video case studies - DfE YouTube channel**
 Helpful video case studies giving insight into placements from both the student's and employer's point of view.
 Visit: <https://tinyurl.com/Y9BQEUQS>
- ↑ **T Level website**
 Official information on T Levels, plus how to find your nearest T Level provider. Visit www.tlevels.gov.uk

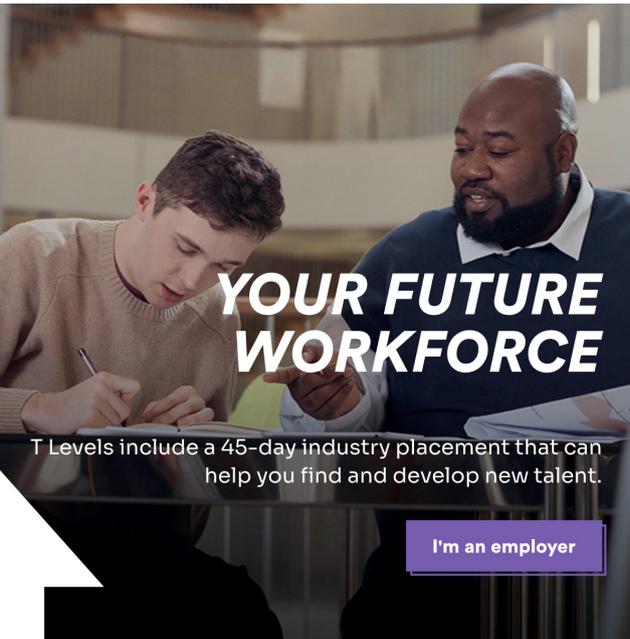
T-LEVELS
STUDENT EMPLOYER



**THE NEXT LEVEL
QUALIFICATION**

T Levels are a new qualification after GCSE that will take your future to the next level.

I'm a student



**YOUR FUTURE
WORKFORCE**

T Levels include a 45-day industry placement that can help you find and develop new talent.

I'm an employer

