




Quarterly Employer e-bulletin

Welcome to your first Employer quarterly e-bulletin.


Each quarter we aim to share updates with you from us, including information on national policy, programmes, and developments that may be of interest. We hope you find the e-bulletin interesting, and if there's anything specific you'd like to see included, please let us know by emailing Karen.Murphy-Ryan@cityandguilds.com


Latest reports and updates

**Building Bridges report**

Our latest report, Building Bridges, explores how individuals can identify their transferable skills and move into new growth industries.

[Download the full report](#)



**Education policy and funding update**

In the Westminster policy arena, the first part of 2021 has largely been dominated by the ongoing response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The main areas of interest have been surrounding the debate on assessment arrangements for summer 2021, as well as the government's response and launch of various skills and jobs-based initiatives to get people (largely younger people) into work.

In January, there was uncertainty as to how vocational and technical exams would be assessed this summer. Ofqual launched a consultation in January to seek stakeholder views of which the outcome was to award VTQs based on three groups:

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
Those that are most like GCSEs and A levels – Teacher Assessed Grades (TAG) will be used.	Those that are used for direct entry into employment – assessments will go ahead in a "Covid-secure way".	Those not like GCSEs or A levels but used for progression – TAG will be used if exams cannot be taken.

Finally, TAG will be used for T Level core components this summer.

Meanwhile, government policy has centred around their new slogan of 'build back better', as well as the publication of the long-awaited FE white paper. The latter, published at the end of January under the title 'Skills for Jobs,' sets out a blueprint for post-16 education and outlines the role of employers and Chambers of Commerce moving forward. It also gives more detail on the Lifetime Skills Guarantee, which launched at the start of April. This offers some adults without a full Level 3 qualification for free in a range of sectors, including engineering, health, and accountancy.

The white paper seeks to place employers at the heart of the skills system alongside the launch of the Build Back Better Business Council by the Prime Minister. This group sees business leaders work directly with the government to fuel the Covid-19 economic recovery.

- Other schemes launched of interest in response to the pandemic include:**
- Skills Bootcamps:**
Free, flexible courses of just 12-16 weeks. These are giving adults the opportunity to build up sector-specific skills and fast-track to an interview with a local employer.
 - Traineeships:**
Employers can apply for a £1000 cash boost (until 31 July) to help them take on new trainees with the intention of supporting young people to gain the skills and experience they need, helping them to get a job, an apprenticeship, or pursue further study. Employers can claim the cash incentive for all work placements that have been completed since 1 September.
 - The programmes last between 6 weeks and 12 months and focus on developing vital employability skills, alongside additional English, maths, and digital skills, combined with a work placement lasting a minimum of 70 hours.
 - Sector-based Work Academy Programme (SWAP):**
The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has increased the number of retraining places available to 80,000 for the next financial year. SWAPs offer jobseekers across England and Scotland a six-week training programme, with the intention of learning new skills and gaining work experience.
 - Construction Skills Academies:**
These will be delivered by the West Midlands Combined Authority to train people for green jobs in the construction industry. Devon County Council will expand their brickwork boot camps to help deliver the talent pipeline needed by employers in the Heart of the South West.


Click on the accordions below to read more about each of the following topics:

• Apprenticeships

• Employer Industry Boards

• T Levels


• Leadership and Management Updates

**Webinars: T Level Industry Placements – how can they support your workforce development, and what support is available?**

In the coming weeks, the DfE and the Strategic Development Network (SDN) are hosting a series of webinars for employers looking at what industry placements are, how they might contribute to your workforce development in the current circumstances, and the support currently available.

You will also have the chance to hear from employers already hosting placements in different workplace settings. Any queries can be emailed to: employers@strategicdevelopmentnetwork.co.uk

[Find out more and register here](#)

**Get involved with the development of T Levels**


As we get ready for T Level delivery, we're collaborating with employers on developing the TQs, and we'd also value your input.

There is an opportunity to get involved in three areas, including:

- The design of the TQs - including determining the guided learning hours (GLH) and amplification of the content.
- The development of assessment which will detail how the qualification assessments will be designed and delivered.
- The review and validation of the TQs and sample assessments to ensure coverage and manageability is at the correct level for you as a Provider and your learners.

To find out how you can help shape the T Level qualification, email our industry managers at Robert.stott@cityandguilds.com for Engineering and Manufacturing
Karen.Murphy-Ryan@cityandguilds.com for Management and Administration

[Find out more information](#)


**Contact us**

You can contact our Technicals Quality team from 08.30 to 17.00 Monday to Friday on the details below:

- 0300 303 53 52 (Please select option 2, then option 3)
- technicals.quality@cityandguilds.com
- Webchat: available at cityandguilds.com/tlevels
- Alternatively, you can find out more on our website at cityandguilds.com/tlevels/employers

Please share this e-bulletin with other employers.

Best wishes,
T Levels team



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