



T Level news and insights

Welcome to City & Guilds and EAL's first T Levels quarterly e-bulletin.

We have been awarded the contract to deliver two T Level qualifications under the Construction route in Building Services Engineering (BSE) and On-Site Construction, working in partnership with EAL. These qualifications will be available for delivery by eligible providers from September 2021.

This update will keep you informed as T Levels develop. It will also provide policy updates from us, the government and from stakeholders involved in the development of T Levels and including key dates for your diary. You can also keep up-to-date by visiting our dedicated T Levels landing at cityandguilds.com/tlevels

Register for our free T Level webinar

Feedback on the new T Level in Construction On-Site and Building Services Engineering

This webinar gives the opportunity for providers and employers to feedback on the draft design and content of the technical qualification that sits within the T Level and raise questions with key staff at City & Guilds in the development of these qualifications. **Confirmed attendees will get chance to feedback on the technical qualification specifications.**

The webinar will cover:

- Structure of a T Level
- Technical qualification specifications – high level content
- Assessment approach
- Opportunity for feedback/questions.

Webinar

Feedback on the new T Level in Construction On-Site and Building Services Engineering

Date:

Wed 12 February 2020

Time:

14:00 - 15:00



Technical qualification development update

Over the last few months our Assessment and Development teams have been working closely with industry partners and providers in amplifying the outline content set by the T Level panels. This will be the content that providers will see in our T Level qualification handbooks. This process is crucial to ensure that the interpretation and manageability of the content is clearly understood by all stakeholders including the student, provider and industry.

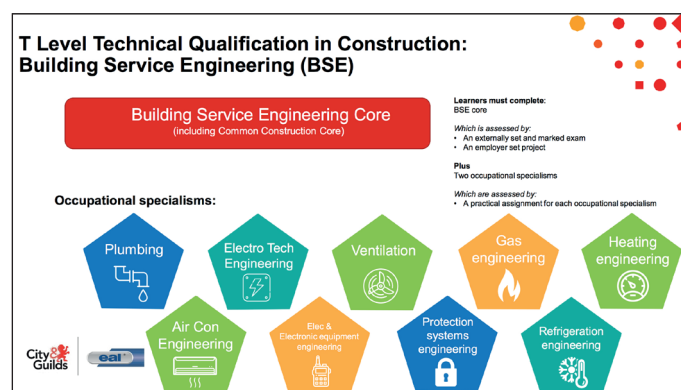
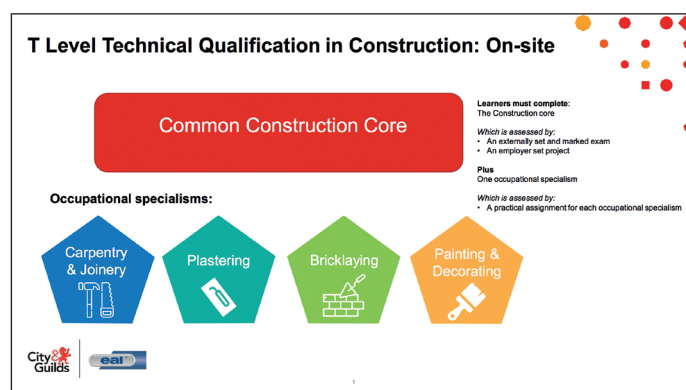
Currently the amplified content is drafted for both On-Site Construction and BSE and we will be continuing to review and refine through an iterative process and continue to consult on this content over the coming weeks. Our technical qualifications (TQs) will be shared with Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IfATE) for feedback as part of regulatory requirements in gaining formal accreditation for these.

In conjunction with the development of the content, key areas of the business have come together to develop an Assessment Strategy which will underpin our T Level

technical qualifications in Construction. The Assessment Strategy outlines City & Guilds and EAL assessment approach to these new TQs within the T Level and includes detailed information on the type, marks and weighting for some of the assessments. It also contains information on the operational delivery of these new assessments for example how they will be made available to providers, marking and awarding and requirements of quality assurance.

We will be consulting with employers and providers on the content of the assessment strategy as it continues to be developed. We are working closely with IfATE in the production of the Assessment Strategy as part of regulatory requirements, to get approval of the approach.

Furthermore, we are in the early stages of design and development of sample assessment material in which employers and providers are key to ensure that our assessments meet both current and future industry needs. Our provider network will be given access to these and an opportunity to feedback once these are ready.



Industry manager update

As the new year commences, work on the technical qualifications (TQs) has already started – with the support, direction and input of stakeholders across Construction and Building Services Engineering. TQs will form part of the second wave of T Levels to go live in September 2021 where a selected group of eligible providers will start to teach these new TQs as part of the new T Levels. T Levels signify a big change in technical education as they will become one of the main choices for students post-16, alongside A Levels and apprenticeships. Equivalent to 3 A levels, the 2-year courses have been developed in collaboration with employers and businesses to ensure the content prepares learners for the world of work and meets industry needs. They will offer learners a mixture of classroom learning and industry placement.

Get involved with the development of T Levels

As we get ready for the T Level delivery, we're working in collaboration with employers on developing the technical qualifications, and we'd also love your input. There are two areas where you can get involved:

- the design of the technical qualification (including determining the guided learning hours (GLH), rules of combinations and amplification of content)
- the development of the assessment strategy which will detail how the qualification assessments will be designed and delivered. To find out how you can help shape the T Level qualification email our development team at qualdevelopment@cityandguilds.com



Funding update

The T Level funding bands are the base funding rate that is paid for each student studying, depending on how many learning hours the student programme contains. On the 31 August 2019, the Chancellor on their web site: [gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-announces-400-million-investment-for-16-19-year-olds-education](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-announces-400-million-investment-for-16-19-year-olds-education) announced an additional £400m for 16 to 19 education.

The increase will take effect in 2020 to 2021. This boost to funding means an increase to the T Level funding bands. Please see the table below for the individual funding band rates.

Table 1: T Level funding bands based on programme size over 2 years	Band 6: Small T Levels	Band 7: Medium T Levels	Band 8: Large T Levels	Band 9: Very Large T Levels
Average planned hours	1250 hours	1450 hours	1600 hours	1750 hours
Minimum planned hours required for the band	1100 hours	1300 hours	1500 hours	1650 hours
Base Funding rate (paid at 50% per year)	£8,726	£10,122	£11,168	£12,216

Funding band rates

There are a number of differences and additional funding that T Level students will attract:

- four new funding bands – because T Levels will be larger than standard study programmes and will be of different sizes
- funding based on the hours over 2 years – because T Levels will be 2-year programmes
- consistent funding for 18-year olds – because T Levels have fixed hours
- Industry Placements funding at a flat rate of £550 – split into 2 payments – 50% each year
- a single payment of £750 per subject per student, paid in the first year for students without Level 2 in maths and/or English – who will need to continue studying these subjects as part of their T Level, in order to achieve the exam requirement
- additional disadvantage funding to reflect the additional hours and demands of T Levels.

The National Funding Formula (NFF) is applied to the T Level base rate, so funding per learner will increase according to individual items such as learner place of abode and which sector subject area is being studied. The base rate of funding is also increased via formula calculations applied to each individual college or provider, based on location, student retention data and other factors shown in the NFF.

Usually, funding for 16-19 year old learners is based on previous years student numbers and data. As T Levels are new there is no historical delivery to determine how many learners to fund for T Levels for the 2020 to 2021 academic year allocations. As the Government do not want funding to be a barrier to the introduction of T Levels, they will be basing T Level learners numbers on a planned figure agreed and submitted by providers in May 2019.

The Gatsby foundation

The Gatsby foundation has been commissioned to create resources to aid delivery for the T Levels. The first cohorts of providers will deliver T Levels from September 2020. The links to the videos describe ways in which these institutions are preparing to offer T Levels, as part of their wider work to be technical education 'routes ready'. Pathways in focus for this phase include:

- design, Surveying and Planning
- on-site Construction
- building Services Engineering

Learn more at:

improvingtechnicaleducation.org.uk/introducing-t-levels

The T Level professional development offer

The Education and Training Foundation has been asked by the Department of Education (DfE) to deliver a workforce development offer ahead of T Levels.

The T Level professional development offer aims to ensure that further education and post-16 providers are T Level ready. This means ensuring that teachers, trainers, and leaders have the teaching skills, subject knowledge and confidence needed to deliver high-quality courses from the outset.

- ongoing professional development needs analysis
- teacher development programme
- regional knowledge and industry insights
- organisational readiness

Learn more at et-foundation.co.uk



Approval process

Eligible providers who are already approved to deliver vocational qualifications with City & Guilds and/or EAL will be required to complete a TQ Approval Application. Eligible providers who are not approved to deliver vocational qualifications with City & Guilds and/or EAL will be required to complete a Centre and TQ Approval Application.

As we're aligning our process to Pearson and NCFE, where a Wave 1 Provider is already approved to deliver a T Level we're looking to consider a fast-track approval approach (known as common approval). If this is approved by IfATE we will work collaboratively with the respective AO to ensure the process is as streamlined as possible.

We understand the burden on providers to complete this process and we'll be looking to ensure its as simple as possible, whilst ensuring you receive all the right support. Eligible providers will be contacted by our dedicated Technicals Quality team later this year.

You will be assigned a named Quality Co-ordinator who will support you throughout the approval process. All eligible providers will be able to discuss their approval application via email, telephone or web chat with the team. Although there will be an application form to complete, we'll be focusing support to all eligible providers through a team of TQ Approval Consultants. They will be selected in collaboration with our partners at EAL and have the relevant occupational and quality assurance experience to carry out the approval of the TQ. Our Approval Consultants will also be on hand to guide and support eligible providers with queries relating to the TQ approval criteria, delivery and assessment of the TQ and the T Level programme.

We anticipate we will commence this process in the Autumn/Winter of 2020, however please note that our approval process outlined above is subject to approval from IfATE and may change.

Feedback survey

Our Assessment Development team are currently developing the technical qualifications within the Construction T Level. We need your help to gain valuable insight and feedback on the technical qualification specifications as part of the validation process for this part of the development.

As a key stakeholder and eligible provider we want to give you the opportunity to take part in this short survey. This will help us ensure that the qualification and assessment design is fit for purpose. The survey questions will be based on the technical content, guided learning hours and delivery of the occupational specialisms.

The draft specifications are now available on our T Levels web page at cityandguilds.com/tlevels under **Draft TQ Specifications**.

Reminder: Third wave of further education providers invited to teach pioneering new T Levels from 2022

The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) are inviting post-16 providers to apply to teach the next wave of the new T Levels from 2022, courses to include Legal, Accounting and Manufacturing. Learn more at the ESFA's website gov.uk/government/news/third-wave-of-further-education-providers-invited-to-teach-pioneering-new-t-levels-from-2022

We're here to support you

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

Tel: **0300 303 53 52** (Please selection option 2, then option 3)

Email: technicals.quality@cityandguilds.com

Webchat: available at cityandguilds.com/tlevels

Alternatively, you can find out more on our website at cityandguilds.com/tlevels