

Technical Education Programme

'Update on T Levels' webinar (18/02/26) – Q&A

Many thanks to colleagues from the Department for Education (DfE), Newcastle & Stafford Colleges Group (NSCG) and the Gatsby Foundation for their input to the answers below.

Disclaimer: Please note that the information in this document reflects the policy situation at the time of the webinar recorded in February 2026 and is subject to change over time.

Q: Do students have to find their own T Level placement?

A: Providers are responsible for sourcing the industry placement and must make sure that it is the right match for both students and employers. The placement must be linked to the content of the T Level to provide students with the opportunity to develop and apply the relevant knowledge, skills and behaviours at Level 3, in the workplace. Providers may also encourage students to find their own placement. In this scenario, it is important that providers help students to identify suitable employers that are relevant to their chosen T Level. Providers and students may also wish to refer to the [self-sourcing guidance](#)

Q: Which T Levels are difficult to find placements for?

A: This varies by geographical location and can be due to limited capacity of employers or issues linked to safeguarding constraints (e.g. for Health placements). Law can be a difficult area to find a placement, due to concerns around sensitive data; this is a national issue that the DfE are looking at to find workable solutions.

Q: Can T Level Health students go straight into work in the NHS?

A; Yes, depending on the career route they want to take and depending on the opportunities available in their local NHS Trust. Students can progress directly into a range of support roles, including healthcare assistant, ambulance assistant, dental nurse, etc. Students may also be access NHS apprenticeships depending on availability within their local area.

To enter registered professions such as Nursing, Midwifery or Paramedic Science, the most common route is to study a relevant degree course. Students may be able to progress to a higher-level apprenticeship or degree apprenticeship in these areas, where they are available locally.

Q: What is the T Level Foundation Year and who is it aimed at?

A: The T Level Foundation Year is a one-year post-GCSE study programme designed for students who need additional preparation to support progression to a T Level course. Proposals in the [Post-16 consultation into level 3 and below pathways](#) include phasing out the Foundation Year. There will be two new pathways at level 2 – a Further Study Pathway and an Occupational Pathway.

Q: Has there been an improvement in the drop-out rates for T Levels?

A: Yes, this has improved and gives us confidence that providers are getting more familiar with the delivery of T Levels and are taking advantage of the support available. The gap is also narrowing when comparing drop-out rates for technical education pathways (currently 71% retention rate for T Levels; 78% for other level 3 technical qualifications).

Q: Is funding available for students who change from A Levels to a T Level after the first year?

A: Yes, funding will still be available, as long as they are still within the [16-19 funding rules](#). This usually means they need to be under 19 at the start of their course (students with an Education Health Care Plan may be funded up to age 25).

Q: What is being done to ensure Higher Education Institutions consider T Levels?

A: The Department for Education (DfE) lead a working group which collaborate with Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to explore access and progression. The DfE produce a [list of HEIs that accept T Levels for entry to at least one course](#), which now includes almost 200 providers. The group works with HEIs where T Levels are accepted to ensure they make this explicit in their entry requirements information. HEIs who don't currently accept T Levels are invited to attend a subject specific task group to share practice, explore challenges and discuss approaches to admissions and curriculum alignment.

Please do email the DfE with any specific instances where you find issues with certain institutions not accepting T Levels:
routesreadiness.te@education.gov.uk

Q: Can adults access funding to do a T Level?

A: No, T Levels are available only for 16-19 year olds.