

T-levels and the known knowns

7 September, 2018

DfE: “T Levels are 2 year technical study programmes for 16 to 19 year olds that include a qualification and a industry placement. They will give students the knowledge and practical skills needed to progress into skilled employment at level 3 and above, or higher levels of technical training.”

Nick Linford, Lsect

LSECT
LEARNING & SKILLS
EVENTS, CONSULTANCY & TRAINING

Welcome to this Lsect webinar

More than 1,000 registrations for this webinar

Agenda

12:00 Registration

12:05 T-levels and the known knowns

Nick Linford, Editor of FE Week

12:45 Q&A

13:00 End

T-level webinar topics

- > Policy background and funding
- > Where T-levels fit
- > T-level programme design
- > T-level routes and pathways
- > Occupational maps
- > T-level awarding org tendering
- > Role of IfA, Ofqual and employer panels
- > DfE commissioned research findings
- > All the unknowns
- > Implementation timescales

Policy background : Nov 2015

Skills minister Nick Boles announces plan for a new system and launches the Sainsbury Review

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/technical-and-professional-education-revolution-continues>

“Compared to other countries, technical and professional education is still too complex, confusing young people and failing to adequately deliver the employees of the future that business needs”

“Up to 20 specific new professional and technical routes will be created”

“These new routes will lead young people from compulsory schooling into employment”

“Lord Sainsbury panel set-up to “decide what these routes will be”

Policy background : July 2016

Skills minister Nick Boles publishes a 'Post-16 Skills Plan' "accepting every one of Lord Sainsbury's recommendations"

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/technical-education-overhaul-unveiled-by-skills-minister>

"The skills plan proposes a new system where students who have finished their GCSEs will be able to choose from up to 15 routes providing a clear path to skilled employment"

At this point they weren't called T-Levels and there was no extra funding: "We accept and will implement all of the Sainsbury panel's proposals, unequivocally where that is possible within current budget constraints"

A few days later Nick Boles quits as Skills Minister after backing Michael Gove's leadership bid

Policy background : March 2017

Spring budget a "breakthrough budget for skills" announcing an extra £500m per year for T-Levels

<https://feweek.co.uk/2017/03/08/budget-2017-sector-hails-hammonds-breakthrough-budget-for-skills/>

Table 2.1: Spring Budget 2017 policy decisions (£ million)¹

	Head	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22 ²
Raising Productivity and Living Standards						
1 16-19 Technical Education: implement Sainsbury reforms	Spend	0	-60	-115	-250	-445

"The Budget announces **T-levels** : The government will increase the number of programme hours of training for 16-19 year olds on technical routes by more than 50%, to over 900 hours a year on average, including the completion of a high quality industry work placement during the programme. To ensure the routes are well-designed and colleges properly prepared, they will be introduced from 2019-20"

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/597471/spring_budget_2017_print.pdf

July 2017 Skills Minister Halfon replaced by Milton and T-level first teaching delayed by a year to September 2020

Policy background : May 2018

DfE publishes T-level consultation response

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/implementation-of-t-level-programmes/>

Request by top DfE civil servant to delay T-Level launch formally rejected by Secretary of State

<https://feweek.co.uk/2018/05/24/hinds-refuses-permanent-secretary-request-to-delay-t-levels/>

54 providers named for wave one delivery from September 2020 (will be more added 'by October')

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/providers-selected-to-deliver-t-levels-in-academic-year-2020-to-2021/providers-selected-to-deliver-t-levels-in-academic-year-2020-to-2021>

August 2018: Federation of Awarding Bodies ditch their threat of taking DfE to Judicial Review

<https://feweek.co.uk/2018/08/02/exclusive-t-level-legal-challenge-dropped-after-dfe-offer-to-re-set-the-relationship-with-awarding-bodies/>

Sept 2018: DfE launch tender for the three T-level qualifications that will be taught from 2020

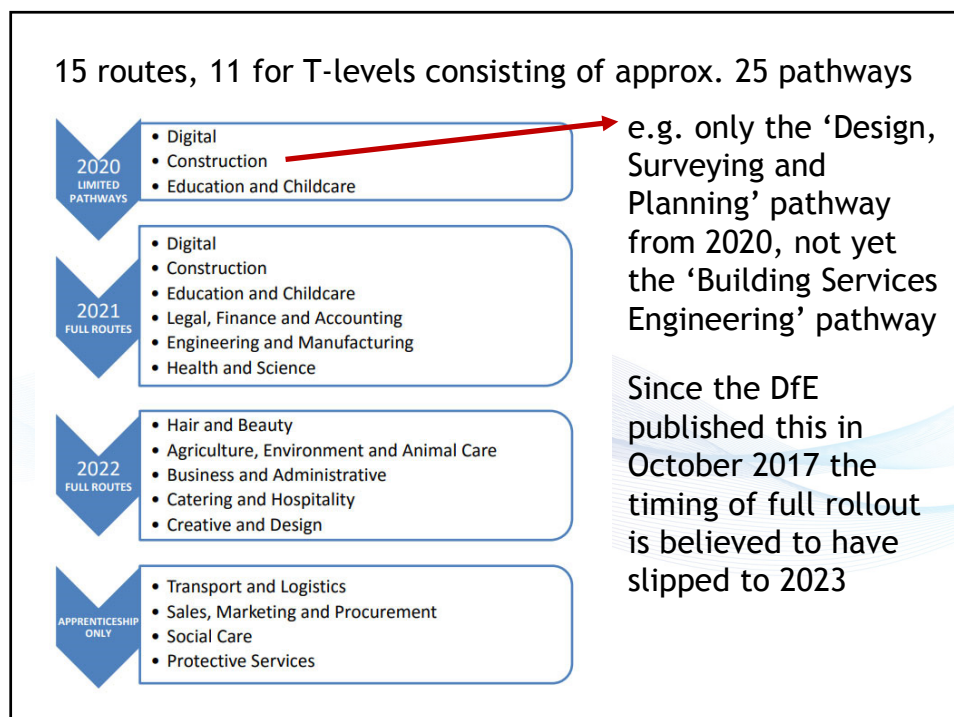
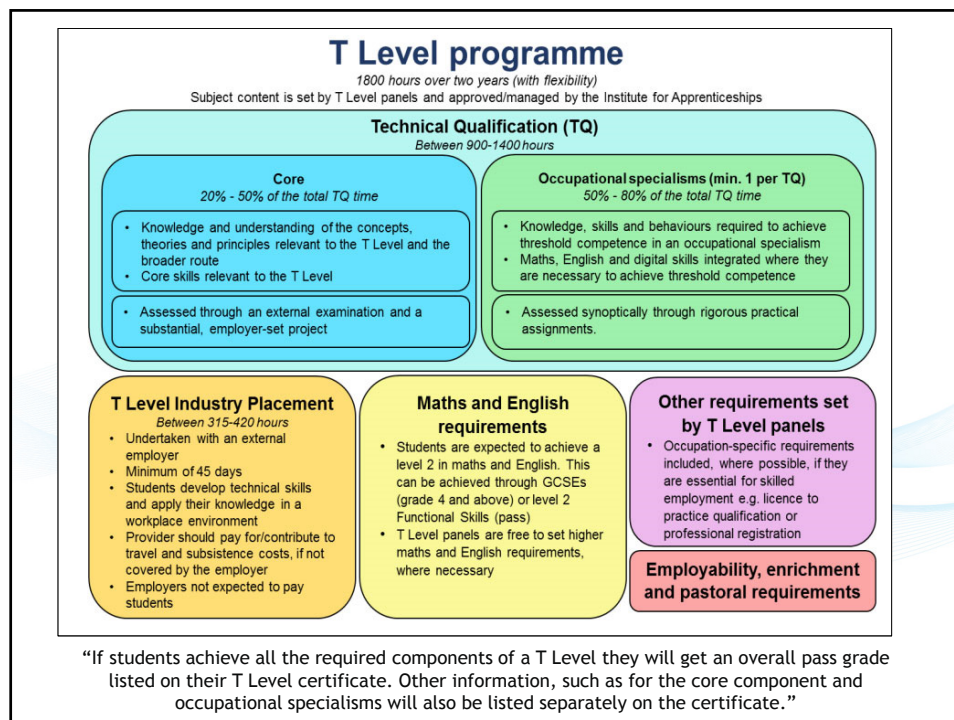
<https://feweek.co.uk/2018/08/02/exclusive-t-level-legal-challenge-dropped-after-dfe-offer-to-re-set-the-relationship-with-awarding-bodies/>

Where T-levels fit

In future, young people will be able to make a clear choice at 16 – whether to pursue an academic or technical path

T Levels are fundamentally different to A levels and have a completely different purpose.

Academic		Technical	
A Levels Subject-based qualifications delivered over 2 years by school sixth-forms, sixth-form colleges and FE colleges		T Levels Classroom based programmes delivered over 2 years by an FE provider (80% in college and 20% on the job)	Apprenticeships Work based training for a minimum of 12 months (80% on the job and 20% off the job e.g. in an FE college)
Purpose: To prepare students for higher education We are currently undertaking a review of other qualifications at level 3 and will only keep those of high quality and with a distinct purpose.		Purpose: To prepare students for direct entry into skilled employment (including higher level apprenticeships) T Levels and apprenticeships are two options within same technical education system Both T Levels and apprenticeships are based on the same occupational standards, developed by employers as part of Institute for Apprenticeships	



Occupational maps

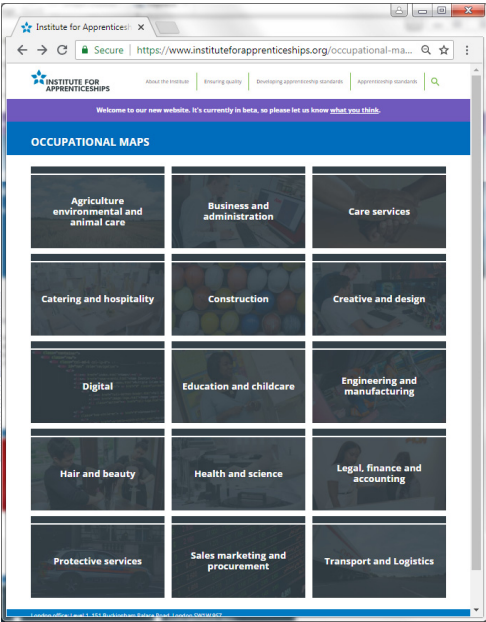
“The 15 routes group together occupations with similar knowledge, skills and behaviours, and each route is further broken down into pathways, which provide further groupings of occupations with similar requirements within each route, giving an indication of possible career progression. Each T Level programme will sit under a pathway [approx. 25]

First pathways to be taught from Sept 2020

Route	Pathway
Education and Childcare	Education
Construction	Design, Surveying and Planning
Digital	Digital Production, Design and Development

“Each route has an occupational map, which details the skilled occupations in each area.”

<https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/about/occupational-maps/>



Example occupational maps

Occupational Map: Construction

This is one of 15 occupational maps that group together occupations that require similar knowledge, skills and behaviours. Career pathways and occupational clusters have been used to provide further grouping of occupations, with the pathways indicating options for likely career progression. Every apprenticeship standard has been captured, as well as other skilled occupations where there is a substantial requirement for technical knowledge and practical skills. This map contains a large number of occupations that have been split into three career pathways: design, surveying and planning; on-site construction; and building services engineering. The construction operative/supervisor, metal and steel operative and construction specialist operative/technician clusters have been identified as suitable for learning via apprenticeships only, so government does not intend to launch T levels for these.

Occupations in green: approved for delivery
Occupations in amber: standard published
Occupations in red: standard in development
(): the number shown in brackets is the level of the apprenticeship (if the level is known)

Career pathway

Technical Occupations
Technical occupations: skilled occupations that a college leaver or an apprentice would be entering, that typically require qualifications at levels 2/3.

Higher Technical Occupations
Higher Technical occupations: require more knowledge and skills acquired through experience in the workplace or further technical education. They typically require qualifications at levels 4/5.

Professional Occupations
Professional occupations: occupations where there is a clear career progression from higher technical occupations, as well as those occupations where a degree apprenticeship exists.

[Click here for more information on the occupations listed in this map](#)

Design, Surveying and Planning

Cluster: Design and Surveying Technician
Design, analyse, plan for site engineering and construction projects. Specialisms are common (e.g. rail infrastructure, asbestos management). Significant capability in the use of IT/digital technology, data collection, analysis and presentation.

Cluster: Design and Surveying Advanced Technician
Identify and monitor client requirements, HSE risks, regulatory compliance, environmental impact, build quality, co-ordinate information and manage build costs.

Cluster: Design and Surveying Professional
Building/structure design, research, commercial cost management, contracts management with a wide range of knowledge of current technology developments and options, contracts, procurement and tracking. Consults with clients to determine functional and spatial requirements of new or renovated structures.

T-level occupational Specialisms

1. Surveying and design for construction and
2. Civil engineering
3. Building services design
4. Hazardous materials analysis and surveying

<https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/media/1862/construction-pdf.pdf>

<https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/occupational-map-consultation/construction>

Tendering for the exclusive AO licence for each pathway

DATE	ACTIVITY
03-Sep-18	Tender launched
12-Sep-18	Deadline for registering to attend Potential Supplier days
21-Sep-18	Date for submitting confirmation of intent to bid
26-Oct-18	Tender submission deadline
Feb-19	Potential Suppliers notified of award decision
Mar-19	Contract commencement



DfE volume of starts estimate within tender doc

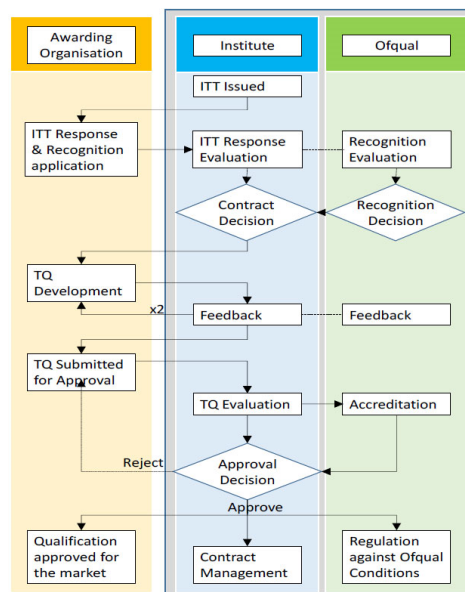
Pathway	Cohort 1 2020/21	Cohort 2 2021/22	Cohort 3 2022/23	Cohort 4 2023/24	Cohort 5 2024/25
Education	900	1,800	3,800	6,200	6,400
Design, Surveying & Planning	400	700	1,000	1,800	1,800
Digital Production, Design & Development	1,200	2,800	5,700	7,900	8,100
Total	2,500	5,300	10,500	15,900	16,300

Role of IfA, Ofqual and employer panels

“T Level panels are responsible for developing the outline content for new T Levels. The panels are made up of employers, professional bodies and providers and help in creating technical education programmes. There are T Level panels across the 6 routes for 2020 and 2021:”

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/t-level-panels-membership>

Next year the IfA is expected to become the IfATE when it takes over from the DfE on all things T-level (including tendering, AO contract management and content design and approval)



Commissioned by the DfE, Frontier Economics has published research into arguably the two most radical aspects of T-level policy:

1. Single awarding bodies

“There is a risk of the market failing if only one or a small number of AOs are in operation with no alternative AOs (when the AOs are ‘too big to fail’).”

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/vocational-qualifications-market-in-england>

But Skills Minister explains in FE Week that the “key reason is that we want to protect the standard of T-levels”

<https://feweek.co.uk/2018/07/08/why-we-are-planning-to-use-a-single-licensing-approach-for-t-levels/>

2. Mandatory ‘industry placement’

Range of concerns from availability, to employer awareness, to cost and potentially competing with apprenticeship opportunities

DfE: “we are investing nearly £60 million in 2018/19 with further funding to come in 2019/20 to support education providers to work with employers to deliver placements. We will continue to work closely with employers to explore ways to make sure they are able to offer placements from 2020.”

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/employer-engagement-and-support-for-t-level-industry-placements>

Unknowns

T levels

What we know now

- Level 3 - Skilled Employment and progression
- 900 hours plus per year
- Tech qualification, E&Ms, Work placement
- Aligned to Apps standards under IFA
- Schedule of 11 Routes - panels in place for first 6
- Co-creation and co-delivery



Education & Skills
Funding Agency

To be clarified

- Content for each T level
- How will work for adults
- Fit with level 2 and Transition Year
- Funding levels/methodology
- Accountability system
- Certification system
- Additional support to providers

Slide presented last November but remains relevant

Implementation timescales

Key Timelines

- Publication of draft ITT and contract documentation for market consultation – **July 2018**
- ITT, tender submissions, tender evaluation and contract award – **September 2018 to Feb 2019**
- Development and approval of qualification – **March 2019 to Feb 2020**
- Operational period, including upskilling providers – **March 2020 to August 2020**
- First teaching cohort - **September 2020**
- Last cohort start – **September 2022**

**Actually now
planned for 2023**

<https://feweek.co.uk/2018/05/27/t-level-full-roll-out-delayed-until-2023-dfe-confirms/>


Department
for Education

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Q&A

My current workshops taking bookings:

Apprenticeship funding update

12 Sept - Manchester
17 Sept - London
26 Sept - Birmingham
3 Oct - Bristol
17 Oct - Liverpool

Visit www.lsect.com to secure places

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