
T Level in Digital: Digital Production, Design and Development

Guide to admissions for higher education providers

Linking London's Uni Connect Outreach Hub has produced this quick guide to T Levels to aid HE admissions teams in their efforts to create fair and meaningful offers for applicants progressing from a T Level. We hope you find it useful. If you have any comments, questions, or feedback please contact info@linkinglondon.ac.uk or our Outreach Hub Officers: Jess Brown (jess.brown@linkinglondon.ac.uk) and Melanie Green (melanie.green@linkinglondon.ac.uk)

The information within this guide has been based on the qualification specification [Issue 1] on Pearson's website, which at the time of writing had been updated on 22nd September 2020. We take no responsibility for the accuracy of said information and recommend checking the most up to date qualification specification which can be found [here](#). Our guide was last updated in April 2021.

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T Level context

T Levels are new two-year, Level 3 study programmes that follow the study of GCSEs and Technical Awards at Key Stage 4 and offer an alternative to other level 3 qualifications including Applied General qualifications, and A Levels as well as Apprenticeships. The first wave of T levels commenced in September 2020, in Digital, Construction, and Education and Childcare. This means that T Level students who are planning to progress on to HE will be making applications from September 2021.

T Levels consist of:

- a technical qualification which includes the *Core Component* and one *Occupational Specialist Component* (both are weighted at 50% of the overall grade),
- and a minimum 315 hours of industry placement with an employer to make sure students have real experience of the workplace.

Students also need to achieve a minimum standard of English and Maths; either GCSE grade 4 or above, or Level 2 Functional Skills. The total Guided Learning Hours for the Core + Occupational Components of the T Level in Digital total 1200 hours; in comparison, 3 A Levels total 1080 hours, but have no industry placement component.

Assessment

Core Component is 100% externally assessed through:

- paper A written examination
- paper B written examination
- Employer Set Project (versions specific to each Occupational Specialism) based on a brief

Occupational Specialism Component is assessed through:

- synoptic task-based project assignments (specific to each Occupational Specialism)

The industry placement does not contribute to the T Level qualification grade but to be judged to have completed their placement, students must demonstrate appropriate behaviours, maintain a logbook, and have progress reviews.

Digital: Digital production, design and development T Level

The T Level in Digital: Digital Production, Design and Development is intended for students who want to progress to a career in the Digital sector, with a focus on software design and development. The purpose of the qualification is to ensure students have the knowledge and skills needed to progress into highly skilled employment, an Apprenticeship or higher level study, including university, within the specialist area of software design and development. The curriculum has been shaped by industry experts; T Levels are based on the same standards as apprenticeships, designed by employers and approved by the Institute for

Apprenticeships and Technical Education (the Institute). This qualification aligns to the Software Development Technician Level 3 Apprenticeship.

The *Core Component* covers the knowledge, understanding and application of contexts, concepts, theories and principles relating to the following areas:

1. Problem solving
2. Introduction to programming
3. Emerging issues and impact of digital
4. Legislation and regulatory requirements
5. Business context
6. Data
7. Digital environments
8. Security

Occupational Specialist Component

In some T Levels, there are multiple options students can choose from for the occupational specialist component – for the Digital pathway, there is only one, with the same title as the T Level.

Performance Outcomes

Analyse a problem to define requirements and acceptance criteria, aligned to user needs

Design, implement and test software

Change, maintain and support software

Create solutions in a social and collaborative environment

Discover, evaluate and apply reliable sources of knowledge

Apply ethical principles and manage risks in line with legal and regulatory requirements when developing software

English, Maths and Digital competencies are embedded and contextualised in both the *Core Component* and the *Occupational Specialist Components* of the T Level. This is so that students are able to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of these skills over the course of the qualification.

<i>General English competencies</i>	<i>General maths competencies</i>	<i>General digital competencies</i>
Convey technical information to different audiences Present information and ideas Create texts for different purposes and audiences Summarise information/ideas Synthesise information Take part in/lead discussions	Measure with precision Estimate, calculate and spot errors Work with proportion Use rules and formulae Process data Understand data and risk Interpret and represent with mathematical diagrams Communicate using mathematics Cost a project Optimise work processes	Use digital technology and media effectively Design, create and edit documents and digital media Communicate and collaborate Process and analyse numerical data Be safe and responsible online Code and program

Grading

The T Level certificate will include:

- an overall grade for the T Level, shown as pass, merit, distinction or distinction*
- a separate grade for the core component, using A* to E
- a separate grade for the occupational specialism, shown as pass, merit or distinction

It will also include confirmation that the student has:

- met the minimum requirements for maths and English qualifications
- completed the industry placement
- met any additional mandatory requirements

<i>Calculation of overall qualification grade</i>			
Core grade	Occupational specialism grade		
	Distinction	Merit	Pass
A*	Distinction*	Distinction	Distinction
A	Distinction	Distinction	Merit
B	Distinction	Merit	Merit
C	Merit	Merit	Pass
D	Merit	Pass	Pass
E	Pass	Pass	Pass

<i>T Level overall qualification grade</i>	<i>UCAS Tariff Points</i>	<i>A Level equivalent to tariff</i>	<i>BTEC Extended Diploma (RQF) equivalent to tariff</i>
Distinction*	168	A*A*A*	D*D*D*
Distinction	144	AAA	DDD
Merit	120	BBB	DMM-DDM
Pass (C or higher on core)	96	CCC	MMM
Pass (D or E on core)	72	DDD	MPP-MMP

Making a meaningful offer to students

From our work with HEIs, colleges, and awarding bodies we would like to offer some suggestions to HE admissions teams considering how to frame offers for T Level students. At the bottom of this page we have laid out some *example offers*.

T Levels are UCAS tariffed, so entry requirements can be expressed either as a UCAS tariff or Distinction*, Distinction, Merit, or Pass. Students will also receive a grade for their performance in the Core Component and Occupational Specialism Component of the T Level; you can specify minimum grade requirements for these if you wish.

It is highly unlikely a student will be able to take any A or AS Levels alongside their T Level, so a requirement for something like A Level Maths, regardless of the qualification alongside, would not be something we would advise. As mentioned above, the total Guided Learning Hours for the Core + Occupational Components of the Digital T Level total approximately 1200 hours, and then has an additional minimum 315 hours of industry placement(s); in comparison, 3 A Levels total 1080 GLH with no industry placement.

If an applicant is required to hold a T Level in a specific subject, this should be clearly stated. Using language such as 'in a related subject' is subjective and unclear for applicants.

We would encourage admissions teams to consider how the T Level may prepare applicants for a wide range of related courses and qualification levels (4-6). This could include, but is not limited to, Business Computing, Computing, Computer Games Design, Computer Science, Cybersecurity, Digital Marketing, Software Development, as well as courses which do not usually have specific A Level subject requirements such as Advertising, Business, and Management Studies.

Example offers

Distinction in T Level in Digital: Digital Production, Design and Development or 144 UCAS tariff points

Pass Grade in T Level in Digital: Digital Production, Design and Development with a minimum of grade C in the Core Component

Merit in T Level in Digital: Digital Production, Design and Development or 120 UCAS tariff points

Merit in T Level in Digital: Digital Production, Design and Development including a minimum of a C in the Core and a Merit in the Occupational Specialism

Where to find further info

[Full specification on the Pearson website](#)

[Government guide to T Levels](#)

[T Levels website](#)

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'T Level' is a registered trade mark of the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education.

The T Level is a qualification approved and managed by the Institute.