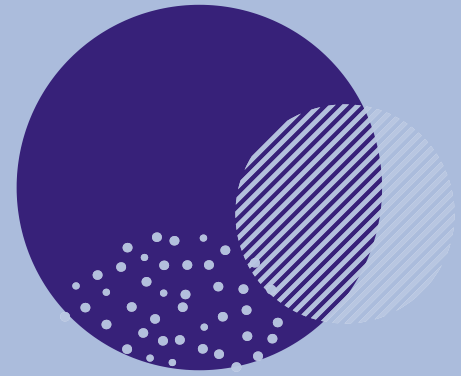


WHERE CAN A T LEVEL IN DIGITAL: DIGITAL PRODUCTION, DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT TAKE ME?



Use this guide to get an idea of your possible next steps

Included in this guide

What next?

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What next?

So you are studying a T Level in Digital: Digital Production, Design and Development and are thinking about your next steps.

There are a range of qualifications you could work towards after your T Level course - depending on the grade you achieve and the kind of learning environment you're interested in - or you could decide to go straight into work or an apprenticeship. What you choose will depend on you, but this guide is designed to help you make an informed decision and consider all your options.

What are my options?

Higher education (HE)	go straight into studying at a higher level, either at university or a college – in this guide, we use 'provider' to mean university or college
Apprenticeship	combine working with studying to gain a higher-level qualification
Work	go into a line of work with Level 3 qualification entry requirements, such as an IT support technician

UCAS Tariff Table

To help you understand the value of your T Level grade against other Level 3 qualifications

T Level Qualification grade	UCAS Tariff Points	A Level equivalent to tariff	BTEC Extended Diploma (RQF) equivalent to tariff
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 the core)	72	DDD	MPP-MMP

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Higher education

Study beyond Level 3 could include different qualification options which we've outlined below. HE qualifications can be gained at universities as well as most colleges, who mainly offer foundation degrees, Higher National Certificates and Higher National Diplomas.

Higher National Certificate Level 4- One year

Possible courses could include:

- HNC Computing
- HNC Computing Security
- HNC Digital Design and Web Development

Higher National Diploma or Foundation Degree Level 5 – One or two years

Possible courses could include:

- HND Digital Forensics and Cybersecurity
- HND Cloud Computing
- HND Digital Design and Development

Undergraduate (Bachelor's) Degree (usually BSc or BA)

Level 6 – Typically three years, but may be longer if the course includes a placement year

Possible courses could include:

- BA Advertising
- BSc Cyber Security
- BSc Software Engineering
- BA Digital Media Production
- BSc Computer Science
- BSc Computer Games Development

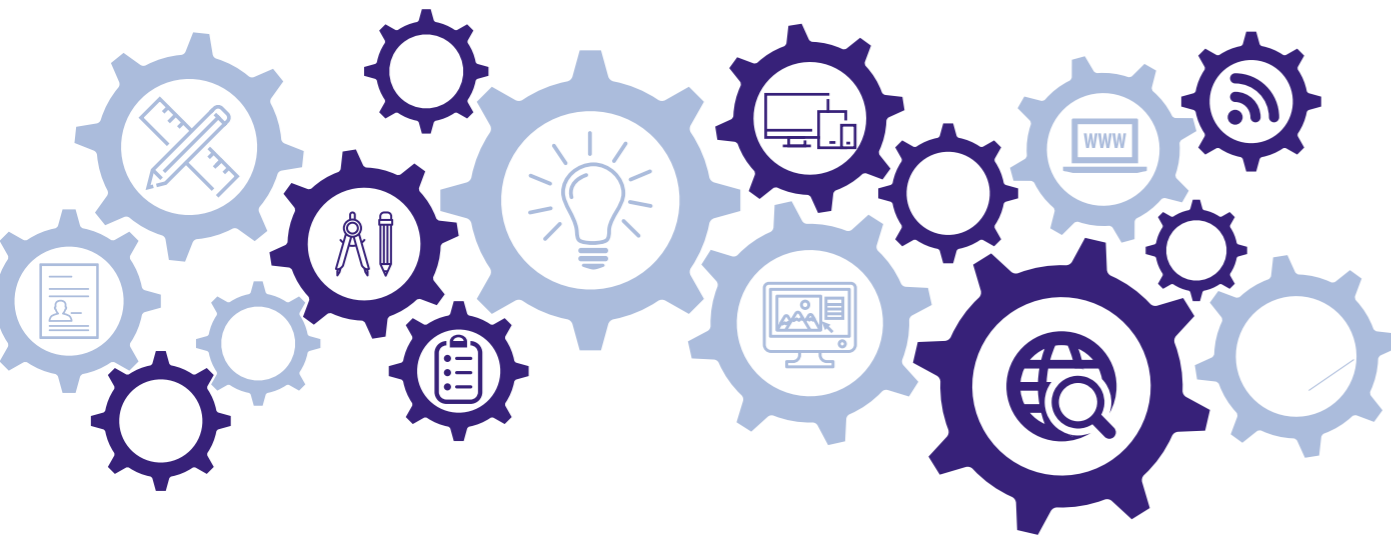
You can use UCAS search to find a course and provider that is right for you. Most HNCs, HNDs and degrees will require an application via the UCAS undergraduate portal. For the vast majority of full time HE courses you will need to apply via UCAS. If you are interested in applying for a part time course you usually need to apply direct to the provider you want to go to. When you apply you will need to include a personal statement, explaining why you want to apply for the course as well as providing information about your T Level programme. Always be mindful of the entry requirements for different courses and check that your course (Digital) is accepted by the higher education provider.

Please always check directly with providers for the most up to date, accurate information on course options.

Tips on making choices

Picking what and where to study at a higher level

- Consider where you want to study in relation to where you live. Will you be commuting and if so what is the journey time like?
- If you are looking to move away to study consider accommodation and whether you'd like to live in halls of residence – if so there is often an early sign up process so check with individual institutions
- Choose the right course by researching modules and considering personal/academic interests. A course with the same title could be quite different at different places!
- Sort out your budget and apply for student finance as early as possible
- Attend as many **open days** as possible and ask students and staff questions about the institution, the course and the types of support you can expect



Remember...

When you come to write your **personal statement** make sure to emphasise the elements of your T Level that are relevant to the course you're applying for. Not many students will have had an industry placement like yours and you should highlight your Occupational Specialism too! It's all about connecting what you are doing now with what you want to be doing in the future.

Higher & degree apprenticeships

Higher and degree apprenticeships combine work with study and offer on-the-job training, a salary and an academic qualification on completion. Below are some examples to give you an idea of the kinds of apprenticeships that may be available in the digital sector:

- Software tester - Level 4 HNC - £9-15k per annum
- Data analyst - Level 4 HNC - £14k per annum
- Network engineer - Level 4 HNC - £10-25k per annum
- Digital user experience (UX) professional - Level 6 Degree with honours - £18k per annum
- Digital and technology solutions professional - Level 6 Degree with honours - £16-20k per annum
- Electrical / electronic technical support engineer - Level 6 Degree with honours - £20k per annum

The salary ranges we have included are to give you a general idea but these will vary a lot and you should always check individual apprenticeship vacancies for specific details.

Start your search for apprenticeship opportunities using the government's '**find an apprenticeship**' service and **RateMyApprenticeship** for resources to help with the application process.

Remember...

When it comes to applying for an apprenticeship, it is a lot like applying for a job so you need to approach it in a similar way. Keep track of any application deadlines for roles you are interested in. Relate your experience, both academic and practical, gained during your T Level to the role you are applying for. The person reading your application may not know much about T Levels because they are so new, so explain how the industry placement and other aspects of the course have prepared you for the role.

Related careers



You may want to go straight into work after you finish your T Level, so below we've included a few careers which usually require a Level 3 qualification. Where relevant, we've included more senior roles in similar pathways which require a higher education qualification.

Straight after your T Level	After further study	Straight after your T Level	After further study
Role/Career IT support technician	Role/Career IT project manager	Role/Career Computer games tester/ quality assurance tester	Role/Career Software developer/programmer
Salary Starting: £16,000 With experience: £35,000	Salary Starting: £30,000 With experience: £70,000	Salary Starting: £15,000 With experience: £40,000	Salary Starting: £20,000 With experience: £70,000
Brief description IT technical support staff diagnose and solve software and hardware problems for computer users.	Brief description IT project managers oversee the development and installation of computer hardware and software systems.	Brief description Computer games testers play computer games to check they work, and find and record problems or 'bugs'.	Brief description Software developers design, build and test computer programs for business, education and leisure services.
Qualifications required Level 3 qualification related to computing and IT.	Qualifications required Degree in a relevant subject like computer science or a higher and/or degree apprenticeship.	Qualifications required You may be able to get a junior position with a Level 3 qualification and a good amount of experience. To progress in the sector, you will likely need a higher-level qualification.	Qualifications required While you may be able to get a junior position with a Level 3 qualification, these days it is likely you will need at least a foundation degree, HNC, or degree in computer science.
After further study			
Role/Career Systems analyst			
Salary Starting: £24,000 With experience: £62,000			
Brief description Systems analysts look at a company's IT infrastructure and work out where to make improvements.			
Qualifications required Degree in a relevant subject like computer science or a higher and/or degree apprenticeship			

Other roles you may want to look into include cyber intelligence officer, forensic computer analyst, IT trainer, and web designer. We used **Prospects** and the **National Careers Service** for these profiles. The salary ranges, qualifications and experience required are examples and you should always check specific details direct with the employer themselves.

Resources



Higher education:

UCAS

UCAS has tons of resources to help guide you in your next educational steps. Creating an account on the UCAS Hub should be one of the first things you do. UCAS has a variety of subject guides that provide more information on different subject areas. The UCAS course search tool is also really helpful to see the range of courses out there at all the different higher education providers in the UK.

Search 'UCAS hub' or click:

www.ucas.com/dashboard

Search 'UCAS subject guides' or click:

www.ucas.com/explore/subjects

Search 'UCAS course search' or click:

digital.ucas.com/search

Unibuddy

A service which connects prospective students with university ambassadors (current students) and staff.

Search 'unibuddy' or click: unibuddy.com

The Student Room

You can access advice from prospective, current, and former students on this platform.

Search 'the student room' or click:

www.thestudentroom.co.uk

Apprenticeships:

Find an apprenticeship

The government's apprenticeship search tool is one of the best ways to find higher and degree level apprenticeships.

Search 'find an apprenticeship' or click:

www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/

RateMyApprenticeship

RateMyApprenticeship also advertises apprenticeship vacancies and has lots of resources available to help you through the apprenticeship application process, as well as reviews from current apprentices.

Search 'ratemyapprenticeship' or click:

www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk/

Work:

National Careers Service

This is a government service which can be helpful in providing an overview of entry requirements and routes into certain careers, including digital, technology, and computing. There's lots of helpful info on writing your CV and finding job vacancies.

Search 'national careers service' or click:

nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/

Technicians Make It Happen

This campaign aims to demystify and shine a light on technician careers, many of which are in the digital sector. They have lots of career profiles and advice about how to become a technician.

Search 'technicians make it happen' or click:

www.technicians.org.uk/

Tech Future Careers

This website, from Tech Degree Partnerships, has helpful info about different roles and qualifications.

Search 'tech future careers' or click:

www.tpdegrees.com/careers/

