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# T Level in Construction: Design, Surveying and Planning

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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](mailto:info@linkinglondon.ac.uk) or our Outreach Hub Officers: Jess Brown ([jess.brown@linkinglondon.ac.uk](mailto:jess.brown@linkinglondon.ac.uk)) and Melanie Green ([melanie.green@linkinglondon.ac.uk](mailto: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 25<sup>th</sup> November 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.

## What's in this guide

T Level context and overview	3
Occupational specialist components	4
General maths, English, and digital competencies	5
Grading and UCAS tariff table	6
How to make meaningful offers to applicants	7
Example offers and where to find more info	8

## 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 Construction T Level 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.

## Construction: Design, Surveying and Planning T Level

The T Level in Construction: Design, Surveying and Planning is intended for students who want to progress to a career in the construction sector, with a focus on design and surveying. The purpose of the T Level in Construction: Design, Surveying and Planning 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 design and surveying. 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).

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

- |                         |  |                             |
|-------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. Health and safety    | 6. Digital technology                              | 10. Sustainability          |
| 2. Science              | 7. Construction mathematical techniques            | 11. Relationship management |
| 3. Measurement          | 8. Design  | 12. Commercial business     |
| 4. Building technology  | 9. Construction and the built environment industry | 13. Project Management      |
| 5. Information and data |  | 14. Law                     |

## Occupational Specialist Components

Students undertaking the T Level Technical Qualification in Construction: Design, Surveying and Planning will be able to choose **one** of four Occupational Specialist Components: Surveying and Design for Construction and the Built Environment; Civil Engineering; Building Services Design; Hazardous Materials Analysis and Surveying.

<i>Occupational Specialist Component</i>	Surveying and Design for Construction and the Built Environment	Hazardous Materials Analysis and Surveying	Building Services Design	Civil Engineering
<i>Performance Outcomes</i>	Measure the built environment Analyse the built environment Design the built environment Verify delivery of the built environment	Inspect the built environment Identify hazardous materials Analyse hazardous materials Monitor hazardous materials	Analyse building services solutions Design building services Verify delivery of building services solutions	Analyse civil engineering solutions Design civil engineering solutions Verify delivery of civil engineering solutions

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/leading 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. On the next page we have laid out some *example offers*.

Unless absolutely necessary, we would advise against only having one preferred Occupational Specialism for students. Colleges and schools will not necessarily offer all occupational specialisms due to the availability of employers for industry placements in their region so some students may be at a disadvantage if the offer is restricted in this way.

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. An example would be 'Merit in T Level in Construction, including a minimum of a C in the core and a Merit in the occupational specialism'.

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 Construction 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 hours 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 Architecture, Architectural Technology, Building Conservation/Design/Services/Technology, Civil Engineering, Construction Design/Management, Surveying, Town Planning, Urban Planning/Studies, as well as courses which do not usually have specific A Level subject requirements, such as Business and Management Studies. Some science subjects may also be suitable for T Level Construction students due to the high levels of maths and sciences content in the T Level.

## Example offers

Distinction in T Level in Construction (Design, Surveying and Planning) or 144 UCAS tariff points

Pass Grade in T Level in Construction (Design, Surveying and Planning) with a minimum of grade C in the Core Component

Merit in T Level in Construction (Design, Surveying and Planning) or 120 UCAS tariff points

Merit in T Level in Construction (Design, Surveying and Planning) 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.