

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF T LEVELS AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Online Live Conference

Wednesday 11th December 2024



Key Speakers



Overview

In September 2020, **T Levels** were introduced as a robust technical alternative to A Levels in England. Four years on, around 16,000 students have now studied all or a part of a T Level since their launch, at over 160 schools and colleges, spanning subjects as diverse as health and science, agriculture, digital technology and legal services.

Whilst progress has been made, significant challenges remain in T Level implementation which cannot be ignored. After four years of roll-out, lessons need to be learned to address worrying student 'drop-out' rates and poor teacher recruitment and retention. Furthermore, questions remain over availability of industry placements, assessment and overall course quality.

After a period of uncertainty in the run up to the general election, the new Labour government has pledged its commitment to bridging the skills gap by investing in technical education including T levels, highlighting their role in equipping young people with essential skills for future success and driving economic growth. In July 2024, a comprehensive review of post-16 qualifications, including T Levels, was initiated to enhance the educational landscape and clarify future funding for applied general qualifications (AGQs) and BTECs.

This must-attend online conference offers a timely opportunity to explore how to improve the delivery of T Levels in the near-term, discuss how to raise awareness of the T Levels offer amongst young people and examine how to bolster collaboration between T Level providers and employers. The conference will also look to the future, providing a valuable insight from the *Department of Education* into the future direction of T Levels, technical education and wider skills policy. The conference will examine what impact the **Curriculum and Assessment Review (CAR)** may have on technical education more broadly and we will also hear about the potential influence of the **Post-16 Qualifications Reform Review** on the future of T Levels and the possible discontinuation of BTECs.

Why Attend?

- Live webinar featuring presentations and panel discussions with a wide range of policymakers and key officials
- Gain insights into the new Government's strategy for T Levels, technical education and skills policy
- Examine the potential impact of the *Post-16 Qualifications Reform Review* and *Curriculum and Assessment Review (CAR)* on the future of T Levels, and funding for applied general qualification (AGQ) courses
- Gather knowledge on successfully designing, developing and delivering T Levels
- Explore how to overcome T Level delivery obstacles, including improving awareness, recruitment and retention of teachers and students, high-quality course content and improving progression routes
- Discuss how to strengthen collaboration & engagement with employers to ensure successful placements for students
- Learn best practice from experts developing and delivering T Levels across the country
- Interactive *Question Time* sessions with opportunities to engage directly with all speakers
- Share ideas with fellow participants from further education, employers, industry, awarding bodies and Government
- *On Demand* – Exclusive access to speaker presentations and post-event resources



Programme

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| 09:30 AM | Delegate Online Login |
| 10:00 AM | Introduction by Webinar Organiser |
| 10:05 AM | Chair’s Welcome and Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul Bailey, Associate Director - T Level Professional Development, Education and Training Foundation |
| 10:10 AM | Keynote Session: Transforming Technical Education and Accelerating Growth – The National Strategy for T Levels <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Delivering technical education fit for the future – Examining the next steps for T Levels ➤ Hear the latest policy updates on T Levels, including the potential impact of the <i>Post-16 Qualifications Reform Review</i> and <i>Curriculum and Assessment Review (CAR)</i> on T Levels and the defunding of BTECs ➤ Utilising T Levels to boost growth by responding to local and national skills needs ➤ Looking towards the new <i>Post-16 Skills Strategy</i> and the potential key role of T Levels within it <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Craig Myers, Deputy Director, T Levels, Department for Education |
| 10:30 AM | Keynote Session: Questions and Discussion |
| 11:00 AM | Comfort Break |
| 11:10 AM | Panel Session One: Boosting Awareness, Access and Preparedness for T Levels <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Raising awareness – Improving public knowledge and understanding of what T Levels offers students, the public and employers ➤ Delivering effective <i>T-Level Foundation Year</i> programmes ➤ Enhancing learner support and guidance to guarantee students are adequately supported and able to meet the rigorous nature of the provision, especially for students with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) ➤ Adapting and improving curriculum planning, content and delivery to meet industry standards ➤ Upskilling staff – Enhancing professional development to advance teaching skills, subject knowledge and industry collaboration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stephanie Crane, Delivery Lead - T Level Programmes, Association of Colleges • Ashley Grute, Assistant Principal - A Levels and Vocational Curriculum, Alton, HSDC Colleges • Jenifer Burden MBE, Director of Programmes, Gatsby Foundation |



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| 12:00 PM | Panel Session One: Questions and Discussion |
| 12:20 PM | Comfort Break |
| 12:50 PM | <p>Panel Session Two: Enhancing Course Quality and Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Examining the future role of <i>Skills England</i> in enhancing skills, boosting growth and improving T Levels implementation ➤ Enhancing progression routes from T Levels into higher education, apprenticeships or employment ➤ Streamlining T Level assessments and qualifications while maintaining high-quality course content ➤ Developing strategies to recruit and retain industry specialist teachers ➤ Integrating cutting-edge technology and industry standard equipment to create immersive learning environments that cater for diverse student needs and foster practical skills development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pamela Rahman, <i>Associate Director for T Levels, Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education</i> • Catherine Sezen, <i>Director of Education Policy, Association of Colleges</i> |
| 1:30 PM | Panel Session Two: Questions and Discussion |
| 1:50 PM | Comfort Break |
| 2:00 PM | <p>Panel Session Three: Strengthening Collaboration with Employers to Improve Placements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Cultivating local partnerships and employer engagement strategies that boost the availability of placements, especially in challenging rural communities ➤ Aligning your T Level offer with local and regional economic needs to bridge the skills gap ➤ Equipping students with essential workplace skills and industry-specific competencies to ensure they are prepared for their placements ➤ Implementing flexible placement models to accommodate diverse industry needs and student circumstances ➤ Enhancing support for both employers and students throughout the placement process to maximize learning outcomes and satisfaction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vanessa Hughes, <i>Head of Digital, Business, Legal and Creative T Levels, Bridgwater & Taunton College</i> • Gert Rohrmann, <i>Training and Development Manager, Smart Infrastructure Division, Siemens</i> |
| 2:50 PM | Panel Session Three: Questions and Discussion |
| 3:10 PM | Final Questions and Chair's Summary & Closing Comments |
| 3:15 PM | End of Online Conference |



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