



T Level action plan: policy update

This document provides an update on aspects of T Level policy. It outlines some of the progress we have made since the publication of our second T Level Action Plan in December 2018, and covers the following areas:

T Level grading and certification

confirmation of the UCAS tariff for T Levels

Grading and certification

Students who pass all elements of their T Level will receive an overall grade of Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction*. They will get a nationally recognised certificate ('T Level Certificate') which will show their overall grade and a breakdown of what they have achieved.

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 each occupational specialism studied, shown as Pass, Merit or Distinction
- confirmation that the minimum requirements for maths and English qualifications have been met
- confirmation that the industry placement has been successfully completed
- confirmation that any additional mandatory requirements have been met

A student's overall T Level grade will be worked out from the grades they achieved on the core component and the occupational specialism(s). If students study more than one occupational specialism, an aggregate across those occupational specialism grades will be used.

An overall T Level Distinction* grade recognises the achievement of the highest attaining students. A T Level Distinction* grade is only awarded to students who, as well as meeting the other T Level requirements, have achieved an A* in the core and a Distinction in their occupational specialism (or Distinction on aggregate if more than one occupational specialism is studied).

Students who do not pass all elements of their T Level will receive a T Level Statement of Achievement. This will show the elements of the T Level that the student has completed but will not include an overall T Level grade.

UCAS tariff points

Although T Levels are primarily designed to provide a direct route to skilled employment, T Level students will have other progression options open to them. These include moving on to an apprenticeship, higher technical training or progressing to higher education.

To support progression into higher education, UCAS tariff points will be allocated to T Levels. Points will be allocated to overall T Level grades, not to separate elements of the T Level. This is to recognise the value of the T Level programme as a whole. Students must achieve at least an overall Pass grade or higher in order to receive UCAS points. UCAS points will not be allocated where a student receives a Statement of Achievement, although a student may subsequently retake T Level components and meet all the requirements for a Pass.

The size and rigour of a T Level programme is comparable to a 3 A Level programme. Therefore, T Levels will attract UCAS points in line with those allocated to 3 A Levels. This alignment is based on a notional comparison of standards with A Levels and other Level 3 qualifications. Although the T Level programme is broadly the same size as a 3 A level programme, the qualifications have different purposes. The T Level programme is intended to help students develop the knowledge and technical skills required for skilled employment. T Levels and A Levels therefore measure different abilities, using different grading scales.

The standards of attainment for the technical qualification component within each T Level programme will be approved by the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (the Institute) and regulated by Ofqual. These intended standards of attainment have informed the UCAS tariff allocation for T Levels.

The Department for Education has worked with the Institute, Ofqual and other delivery partners to establish how T Level standards are intended to align, notionally, with those of other qualifications including A Levels. The table below shows the UCAS tariff allocation for T Levels, which has been informed by this intended alignment, and how it compares to the allocation for A levels.

UCAS tariff points	T Level overall grade	A Level
168	Distinction*	A*A*A*
144	Distinction	AAA
120	Merit	BBB
96	Pass (C or above on the core)	CCC
72	Pass (D or E on the core)	DDD

A T Level Pass grade is allocated a tariff score of either 72 or 96 points. This is to recognise differences in performance on the core component. That is:

- where a student has obtained an overall Pass by achieving a Pass in the occupational specialism and a B or C in the core, a tariff of 96 UCAS points (aligned to 3 Cs at A Level) is representative of their level of achievement.
- where a student has obtained an overall Pass by achieving a Pass in the occupational specialism and a D or E in the core, a tariff of 72 UCAS points (aligned to 3 Ds at A Level) is representative of their level of achievement.

The tariff points allocated to overall Merit and Distinction T Level grades represent even increments between the points allocated to an overall Pass (with a C or above in the core component) and Distinction* grade.