



WHERE CAN A T LEVEL IN EDUCATION & CHILDCARE TAKE ME?

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

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What next?

So you are studying a T Level in Education & Childcare 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 a Teaching and Support Assistant or Early Years Educator

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 Public Health & Community Studies
- HNC Early Childhood Education & Care
- HNC Social & Community Work

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

Possible courses could include:

- HND Education and Training
- HND Early Childhood Development & Learning
- HND Applied Psychology
- FdA Education & Learning

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 Education
- BA Education, Culture & Society
- BSc Psychology (Child Development)
- BA Social Work
- BSc Speech & Language Therapy
- BN Learning Disabilities Nursing

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 (Education and Childcare) 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 field of education and childcare.

- Support Worker Apprentice (HNC, Level 4) - £12k per annum
- Nursery Assistant Apprentice (HNC, Level 4) - £11k per annum
- Residential Support Worker for Children & Young People Apprentice (HNC, Level 4) - £10k per annum
- Teaching (Qualified Teacher Status, Level 6) – £16-26k per annum
- Social worker (degree with honours, Level 6) – £23k 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.

* Please note that the teacher apprenticeship requires you to have an undergraduate degree already, as it is a one-year scheme. Apprenticeships working with children will likely require you to pass an enhanced criminal background check.

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
Role/Career Nursery Assistant	Role/Career Early Years Teacher
Salary Starting: £14,000 With experience: £24,000	Salary Starting: £16,000-£18,000 With experience: £22,000-£30,000
Brief description Help babies and children up to 5 years old to develop and learn in a safe and supportive setting	Brief description Work with children up to the age of five in preschool settings and the foundation stage of primary school, working to inspire, excite and nurture children through a crucial stage of their development
Qualifications required For entry-level positions, you'll need to have basic literacy and numeracy skills. A level 3 qualification in early years will be useful in applying for this role, as well as experience in a nursery setting – this could be through placements on the T Level or through volunteering. A paediatric first aid certificate will also be useful.	Qualifications required To become an early years teacher, you'll need to gain early years teacher status (EYTS). EYTS is a specialist qualification that allows you to work with children up to five years old only. You can gain this through a full-time undergraduate degree in an early childhood-related subject – always check the course leads to EYTS before applying.

Much of this information was sourced from **Prospects** and the **National Careers Service** – we recommend looking online at their job profiles. The salary ranges, qualifications and experience required are examples and you should always check specific details direct with the employer themselves.

Straight after your T Level

Role/Career
Teaching Assistant

Salary
Starting: £11,500- 17,364
With experience: £17,364-£23,000

Brief description
TAs support pupils in their educational, emotional and social development in schools and nurseries. TAs also support the teacher by undertaking duties that will free up their time for teaching.

Qualifications required
For entry-level positions, you'll need to have basic literacy and numeracy skills and experience of working with children. You don't need a degree to become a TA, but L3 qualifications and experience in childcare, nursery, play or youth work could be useful

Straight after your T Level

Role/Career
Community Development Worker

Salary
Starting: £16,000-£26,000
With experience: £21,000-£36,000

Brief description
Act as a link between communities and other local authority providers to address the cultural, economic or geographic inequalities within those communities.

Qualifications required
Entry without a degree is possible, but an HNC (L4) or HND (L5) in community and social work would be an advantage to broaden career development. Volunteering with local groups is a good way of obtaining practical experience within the community.

After further study

Role/Career
Primary School Teacher

Salary
Starting: £25,714-£36,961
With experience: £36,961-£41,604

Brief description
Teachers develop schemes of work and lesson plans in line with curriculum objectives, facilitating learning by establishing a relationship with pupils and creating a positive learning environment in the classroom.

Qualifications required
Must have a degree and achieve qualified teacher status (QTS) by completing a period of initial teacher training (ITT). In order to achieve QTS you can take an undergraduate Bachelor of Education (BEd) or a BA/BSc with QTS. However, there are other ways to obtain QTS after completion of a L6 degree, such as obtaining a Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE).

After further study

Role/Career
Social Worker

Salary
Starting: £24,000-£30,000
With experience: £30,000-£40,000

Brief description
You'll support individuals and their families through difficult times and ensure that vulnerable people are safeguarded from harm with the primary aim of helping improve outcomes in people's lives.

Qualifications required
An undergraduate degree will be required to become a social worker which will need to be approved by Social Work England. There are postgraduate intensive options to qualify if you did not study social work at undergraduate level.

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 education & childcare. There's lots of helpful info on writing your CV and finding job vacancies.

Search 'national careers service' or click:

nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/

Early Years Educator:

Professional Association for Childcare and Early Years

National Day Nurseries Association

Early Years Alliance

Teaching:

Skills for Schools

Teaching Vacancies Service

Get Into Teaching

Social/Community Workers:

Social Work England

British Association of Social Workers

Think Care Careers

My Community