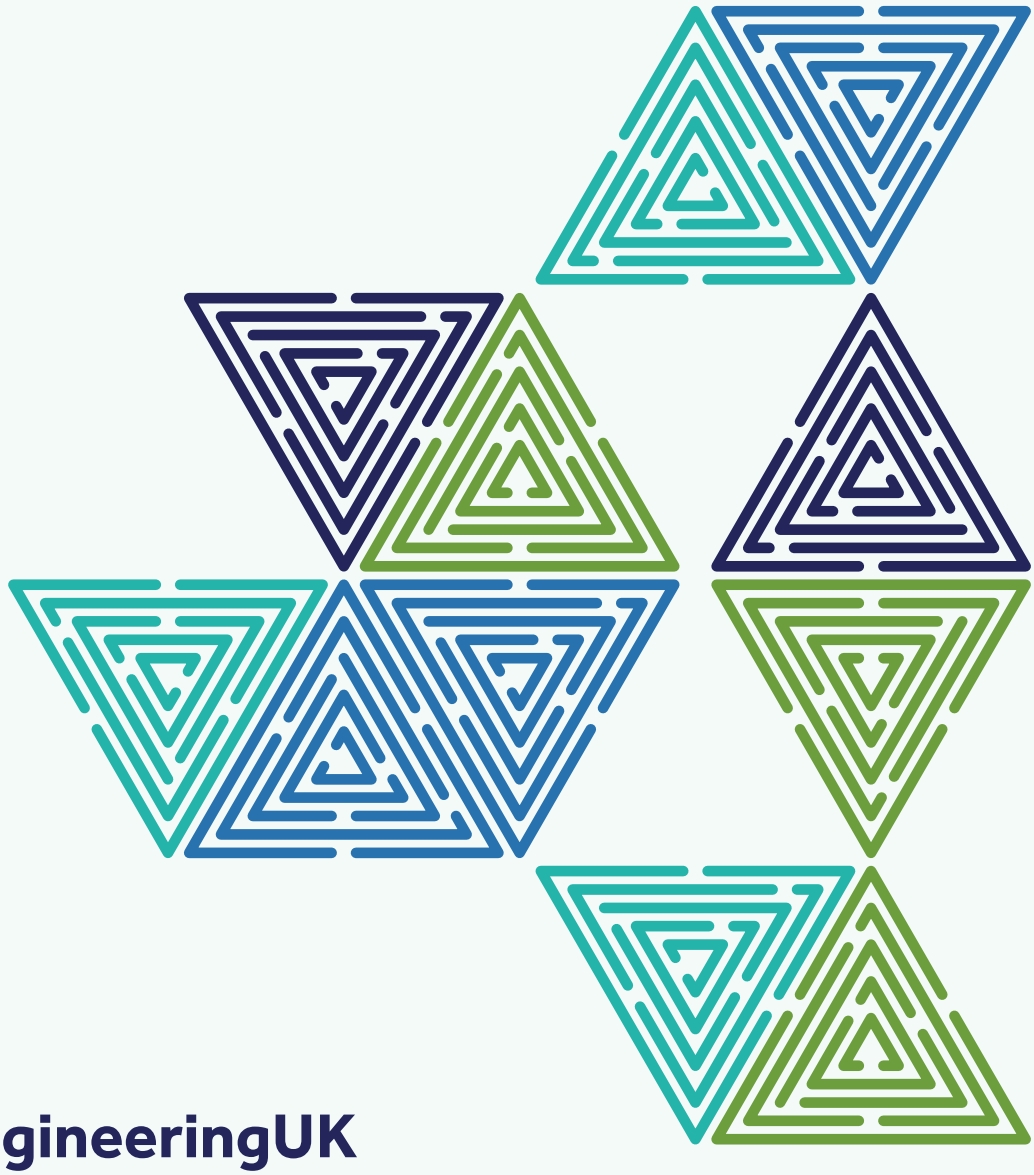
T LEVEL AND VTQ RESULTS

August 2026



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Introduction

The first two-year T Level courses launched in 2020, with the first results in August 2022. Three courses were on offer in year 1[1], 10 courses in year 2[2], 16 courses in year 3[3], 18 courses in year 4[4], and this year, the fifth year of T Levels, a total of 21 T Level courses were available[5].

Similarly to previous years, a number of students started their T Level courses in 2023 but did not complete the qualification. There were 25,508 enrolments in 2024[6] and 19,665 of these received their results in August 2026. This means that 23% of students who enrolled in 2024 have not completed their T Level. This is similar to the drop-out rates we see for other large VTQs, but larger than for those taking A levels[7]. This also means that the drop-out rate is improving year-on-year – this was 33% in 2023, 29% in 2024, and 26% in 2025. While it is positive to see a decline in the attrition rate, this does still mean a number of young people without a level 3 qualification at 18.

The relative newness of T Levels likely explains at least part of the attrition rate, especially as new courses have come online each year since the 2020 launch. There has been some conjecture that the difficulty of securing the mandatory industry placement may be causing some to drop out of their course. However, in positive findings from 2026, only 2.8% of those getting their results had not completed the placement. This is higher for those getting engineering and technology-related results (3.8%), but both numbers are lower than previous years. A further 1.6% of engineering and technology-related students received a 'completed with special consideration' for their industry placement – meaning they had completed enough of the qualification but could not finish it due to reasons beyond their control.

As T Levels are rolled out, their content, assessment and quality are being reviewed on an ongoing basis. As part of the review into level 3 qualifications reform, government announced that new enrolments onto the Onsite Construction T Level have ceased[8]. Uptake has been limited, and there is a reported lack of demand for a large level 3 qualification in this area. Students and providers have other vocational and technical qualifications available to them to support pathways into this key sector. The September 2024 entrants, receiving their results this August, were the final cohort.

Results for other level 3 vocational and technical qualifications (VTQs) were also released, and for the first time, this full dataset have been released. These results are covered in this briefing, but because this is the first year of this data, we are unable to compare to previous years.

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[1] 3 T Level courses launched in 2020 with first results in 2022: Design, Surveying and Planning for Construction; Digital Production, Design and Development; and Education and Early Years.
[2] 7 additional courses launched in 2021 with first results in 2023: Building Services Engineering for Construction; Digital Business Services; Digital Support and Services; Health; Healthcare Science; Onsite Construction; and Science.
[3] 6 additional courses launched in 2022 with first results in 2024: Accounting; Design and Development for Engineering and Manufacturing; Engineering, Manufacturing, Processing and Control; Finance; Maintenance, Installation and Repair for Engineering and Manufacturing; and Management and Administration
[4] 2 additional courses launched in 2023 with first results in 2025: Agriculture, Land Management and Production; and Legal Services
[5] 3 additional courses launched in 2024 with first results in 2026: Animal Care and Management; Craft and Design; and Media, Broadcast and Production
[6] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/t-level-and-t-level-foundation-year-entrant-data-2024-to-2025
[7] https://ffteducationdatalab.org.uk/2024/08/five-things-to-look-out-for-on-results-day-for-a-levels-t-levels-and-other-level-3-qualifications/
[8] https://support.tlevels.gov.uk/hc/en-gb/articles/23245075846034-T-Levels-and-the-outcome-of-the-Review-of-Qualifications-Reform

2026 T Level courses - engineering and technology careers

The Department for Education lists of 10 T Levels that support a young person with progression into an engineering and technology-related career[9]. These are:

- Agriculture, Land Management and Production
- Building Services Engineering for Construction
- Craft and Design
- Design and Development for Engineering and Manufacturing
- Design, Surveying and Planning for Construction
- Digital Production, Design and Development
- Digital Support Services
- Engineering, Manufacturing, Processing and Control
- Maintenance, Installation and Repair for Engineering and Manufacturing
- Onsite Construction

VTQ engineering and technology

For VTQs, results are published in Sector Subject Areas (SSAs). We consider a qualification to be engineering and technology-related if it is in one of the 3 following SSAs:

- Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies
- Construction, Planning and the Built Environment
- Digital Technology

[9] The DfE lists potential careers that can follow from each T Level: https://www.tlevels.gov.uk/students/subjects

T Level results

Number of students who completed their T Level course in 2026

The number of students enrolled on both general (+63%) and engineering and technology-related (+46%) T Level courses has markedly increased since 2025. This shows a good growth in popularity of T Levels, alongside the introduction of 3 new courses, one of which is engineering and tech-related (table 1).

- All existing courses saw an increase in student numbers
- Three courses had over 1,500 students: Design, Surveying and Planning, Digital Production, Design and Development, and Design and Development for Engineering and Manufacturing
- 42% of all young people who completed their T Level course in 2026 studied an engineering and tech-related course

Table 1: Number of students taking T Level courses

T Level Course	Number of learners				
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Design, Surveying and Planning	200	444	687	1,027	1,588
Digital Production, Design and Development	331	695	1,037	1,473	1,719
Building Services Engineering for Construction	-	208	319	541	830
Digital Support Services	-	191	296	415	603
Onsite Construction	-	75	139	126	213
Design and Development for Engineering and Manufacturing	-	-	555	1,114	1,649
Engineering, Manufacturing, Processing and Control	-	-	181	310	500
Maintenance, Installation and Repair for Engineering and Manufacturing	-	-	399	492	655
Agriculture, Land Management and Production	-	-	-	201	483
Craft and Design					67
All engineering and tech-related T Levels	**531**	**1,613**	**3,613**	**5,699**	**8,307**
All T Levels	**996**	**3,560**	**7,436**	**12,055**	**19,665**

Gender breakdown of engineering and tech T Levels

As seen in the engineering and technology workforce and across other qualifications[10], engineering and technology T Levels have a low proportion of female students in their cohort (table 2).

- Only 13% of those completing their engineering and technology-related T levels were female. This is a small increase on the 12% seen in 2025 and 9% in previous years.
- This varies across the different courses, ranging from a low of 2% for Building Services Engineering for Construction, to highs of 33% for Agriculture, Land Management and Production and 18% for Design, Surveying and Planning.
- Overall, 49% of young people getting their T Level results were female. Subjects with strong female uptake included Education and Early Years (96%), Health (91%), and Craft and Design (87%).

Table 2: Gender of students completing their engineering and tech-related T Level course in 2024

T Level course	Total number of students	Number of male students	Number of female students	% Female
Design, Surveying and Planning	1,588	1,286	280	18%
Digital Production, Design and Development	1,719	1,491	207	12%
Building Services Engineering for Construction	830	809	20	2%
Digital Support Services	603	556	47	8%
Onsite Construction	213	201	11	5%
Design and Development for Engineering and Manufacturing	1,649	1,504	143	9%
Engineering, Manufacturing, Processing and Control	500	446	53	11%
Maintenance, Installation and Repair for Engineering and Manufacturing	655	589	65	10%
Agriculture, Land Management and Production	483	323	160	33%
Craft and Design	67	8	58	87%
All engineering and tech-related T Levels	**8,307**	**7,213**	**1,044**	**13%**
All T Levels	**19,665**	**9,878**	**9,699**	**49%**

[10] www.engineeringuk.com/keystats

2026 T Level attainment

T Level attainment is high, with more than 9 in 10 of those completing their qualification achieving a pass grade or higher. The majority have achieved a merit or above, and more than 1 in 6 achieving a distinction (table 3).

- Attainment overall was lower than average for engineering and tech-related T Levels compared to the average for all T Levels.
- Attainment rates vary across the engineering and tech-related subjects, ranging from 79% merit or above for Design, Surveying and Planning and Craft and Design, to 39% merit or above for Onsite Construction.
- Very few Distinction* grades were awarded again in 2026, only 74 in total, with only 8 achieved in any engineering or tech-related T Levels – 5 in Design, Surveying and Planning, 2 in Digital Support Services, and 1 in Digital Production, Design and Development.
- Those without a pass were nearly all students who received a partial achievement, with only a handful being unclassified. Partial achievement covers students who attempted both the core component and occupational specialism but achieved only one, and students who achieved neither but completed the industry placement. These are students who may complete their T Level in the coming months.

Table 3: Attainment of students completing T Level course in 2026

T Level course	Distinction/ Distinction* (%)	Merit or above (%)	Pass or above (%)
Design, Surveying and Planning for Construction	20%	79%	96%
Digital Production, Design and Development	19%	67%	91%
Building Services Engineering for Construction	6%	40%	81%
Digital Support Services	20%	68%	90%
Onsite Construction	3%	39%	75%
Design and Development for Engineering and Manufacturing	10%	43%	82%
Engineering, Manufacturing, Processing and Control	13%	61%	91%
Maintenance, Installation and Repair for Engineering and Manufacturing	13%	61%	91%
Agriculture, Land Management and Production	23%	60%	95%
Craft and Design	36%	79%	99%
All engineering and tech-related T Levels	**15%**	**60%**	**89%**
All T Levels	**18%**	**69%**	**93%**

The regional shape of T Levels

Take up of T Levels is not evenly distributed across the English regions. In particular (table 4):

- A much higher proportion of T Levels, in general (17%) but particularly in engineering and technology-related subjects (18%), are offered in the North West compared to their share of the population (13%).
- The North East, Yorkshire, and the West Midlands also all have higher proportions of T Level students than their population share.
- London is achieving particularly poor levels of T Level uptake, with only 8% of both all T Levels and engineering and tech-related T Levels coming from the region, compared to 16% of the population.
- The East of England, the East Midlands and the South East also have slightly lower proportions of T Level students compared to their population share.

Table 4: Number and proportion of T Levels per English region, 2026

Region	Total T Levels	Eng and tech T Levels	% of all T Levels	% of eng and tech T Levels	% of English population[11]
North East	1,475	631	8%	8%	5%
North West	3,285	1,536	17%	18%	13%
Yorkshire and the Humber	2,374	1,039	11%	13%	10%
East Midlands	1,249	546	6%	7%	9%
West Midlands	2,610	1,119	13%	13%	11%
East of England	2,014	828	10%	10%	11%
London	1,619	705	8%	8%	16%
South East	2,919	1,138	15%	14%	16%
South West	2,121	765	11%	9%	10%

[11] Based on the latest mid-year population estimates at time of writing: https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/estimatesofthepopulationforenglandandwales

VTQ results

Number of VTQ results awarded

300,005 results were awarded across the in 2026, across 421 VTQ qualifications. Most awards were for medium sized VTQs:

Table 5: VTQ size definition and number awarded, 2026

Size	Guided learning hours	A level equivalence	Awards in 2026
Small	Up to 180	~half an A level	48,420
Medium	181-599	~1-1.5 A levels	166,201
Large	600+	~2-3 A levels	85,384

There were 51,957 awards for engineering and technology subjects. Medium qualifications were still the largest group, but Construction, Planning and the Built Environment qualifications were more likely to be small (table 6). Overall, engineering and technology VTQs made up 17% of all awards, but 28% of small awards.

Table 6: Engineering and technology VTQ awards by size, 2026

	Small	Medium	Large	Total
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	1,688	7,170	6,013	14,871
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	11,101	5,508	3,256	19,865
Digital Technology	534	10,229	6,458	17,221
All engineering and tech	13,323	22,907	15,727	51,957

VTQ attainment

VTQs data covers a large range of qualifications. As well as the different sizes, there are different award structures and grading scales. Overall, 28,390 (9%) were awarded the top grade.