

T LEVEL INDUSTRIAL PLACEMENTS – GUIDANCE FOR MANAGERS

T levels are the new technical qualifications for anyone aged 16 plus if they wish to study at level 3 as an alternative to doing A levels or apprenticeships.

T levels will be delivered by colleges, to be piloted this academic year to go live in 2020 and will eventually be delivered in schools as part of their 6th form provision. There are 15 pathways, 11 of which are T levels and 4 of which will only be apprenticeships. T levels comprise of a 2-year course of study leading to a qualification that is equivalent to 3 x 'AAA' A levels. The T level cannot be gained unless the student has done at least 45 days of industrial placement in jobs (up to 2 placements only) in industry related to the sector they are studying i.e. engineering, construction, business, creative etc.

T level industrial placements require the employer to create a job role for the student for them to undertake in the second year of their 2 year course. The employer will be required to set projects, report on progress and to provide a reference that states the student has met the criteria of the placement (set out in the qualification). Throughout the 45 days the college/provider will be in regular contact with the student and at least three points will conduct a formal review with the line manager and the student.

From a business perspective there is much to gain from a student on an industrial placement. It will certainly bring in a high calibre of talent that we would hope to retain as apprentices in the business once they have completed their T level course. It strengthens our relationship with colleges that are also our customers.

It is important for Pearson to be involved in the placements because we are one of only 2 awarding bodies writing the first three pathways that will be piloted this year. We can use our experience to inform our sales team to aid them in the work they do with colleges to improve the experience of students and employers. The funding body the ESFA looks to us to lead the way as an employer and we have been invited to speak at events about the benefit to us as an employer and to become a T level ambassador.

The ESFA is also focusing on improving T level information for Schools' career guidance advisors with several events planned this year. We have been asked to participate in the development of this guidance and we are sharing with our school customers.

If you would like more information or you can offer an industrial placement

The Gov.uk website has more information.

Tel: 08000 150 600

Email: tlevel.placement@education.gov.uk