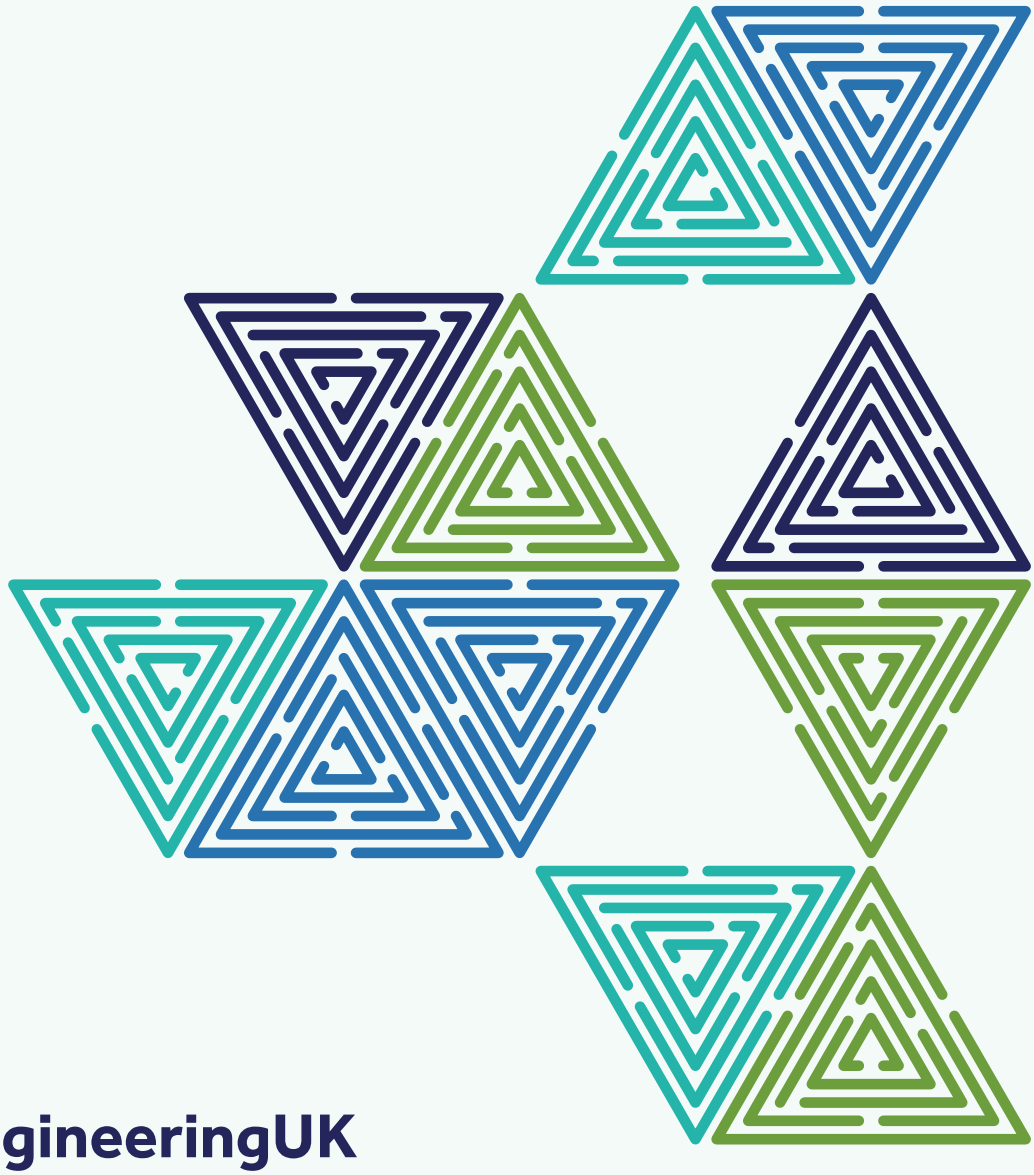
T LEVEL RESULTS

August 2024



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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], and this year, the third year of T Levels, a total of 16 T Level courses were available[3].

Similarly to 2023, a large number of students started their T Level courses in 2022 but did not complete the qualification. There were 10,253 enrolments in 2022 and 7,262 of these received their results in August 2024 – meaning that 29% of T Levels students who enrolled in 2022 have not completed their T Level. This is slightly better than the 33% drop out rate seen in 2023 but is still a higher rate than that seen across other level 3 qualifications[4]. While it is positive to see a decline in the attrition rate, this is still a concerning number, especially given that in 2023 20% withdrew and switched to an alternative course, but 12% withdrew and had not switched to another qualification.

It is not known why the attrition rate is higher for T Levels than other courses, though the relative newness might explain at least part of this. 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 2024, only 4.9% of those getting their results had not completed the placement; 6.9% for those getting engineering and technology-related results.

Results for other level 3 vocational and technical qualifications were also released, but due to the way the data is published it is not possible to do the analysis we would like on the engineering and tech-related courses at this time. The data is released in more detail to allow this later in the year.

2024 T Level courses - engineering and technology careers

The Department for Education lists of 8 T Levels that support a young person with progression into an engineering and technology-related career[5]. These are:

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

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

T Level completions and results

Number of students who completed their T Level course in 2024

The number of students enrolled on both general and engineering and technology-related T Level courses has doubled since 2023, marking a good growth in popularity of T Levels alongside the introduction of new courses (table 1).

- Overall numbers completing T Levels has doubled since 2023 and increased by over 600% since 2022 with the introduction of new courses.
- Courses completing for the third time in 2024 have seen consistent increases in student numbers – over 50% for engineering and tech-related subjects.
- A similar picture is seen for courses in their second year, with a 62% increase for engineering and tech-related subjects.
- New courses have seen solid uptake in their first year, in particular for Design and Development for Engineering and Manufacturing.
- Around half of all young people who completed their T Level course in 2024 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
Design, Surveying and Planning for Construction	207	441	686
Digital Production, Design and Development	340	687	1034
Building Services Engineering for Construction	-	207	318
Digital Support Services	-	182	294
Onsite Construction	-	75	138
Design and Development for Engineering and Manufacturing	-	-	555
Engineering, Manufacturing, Processing and Control	-	-	175
Maintenance, Installation and Repair for Engineering and Manufacturing	-	-	398
All engineering and tech-related T Levels	**547**	**1592**	**3598**
All T Levels	**1029**	**3448**	**7380**

Gender breakdown of engineering and tech T Levels

As seen in the engineering and technology workforce and other qualifications[6], engineering and technology T Levels have a low proportion of female students in their cohort (table 2).

- Only 9% of those completing their engineering and technology-related T levels were female, the same proportion as 2023.
- This varies across the different courses, ranging from lows of 3% and 4% for Building Services Engineering for Construction and Onsite Construction, to a high of 16% for Design, Surveying and Planning for Construction.
- Overall, 44% of young people getting their T Level results were female. Subjects with strong female uptake included Education and Early Years (94%), Health (91%), and Healthcare Science (74%).

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 for Construction	686	572	107	15.6
Digital Production, Design and Development	1034	930	96	9.3
Building Services Engineering for Construction	318	309	9	2.8
Digital Support Services	294	273	21	7.1
Onsite Construction	138	133	5	3.6
Design and Development for Engineering and Manufacturing	555	514	40	7.2
Engineering, Manufacturing, Processing and Control	175	154	19	10.9
Maintenance, Installation and Repair for Engineering and Manufacturing	398	369	29	7.3
All engineering and tech-related T Levels	**3598**	**3254**	**326**	**9.1**
All T Levels	**7380**	**4116**	**3227**	**43.7**

[6] www.engineeringuk.com/keystats

2024 T Level attainment

Compared to previous years the grades achieved have fallen slightly, but this is to be expected with more courses and more students taking the qualification. Despite the fall, around 9 in 10 completing their T Level achieved a pass grade or higher, with the majority achieving at least a merit, and more than 1 in 7 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 73% merit or above for Design, Surveying and Planning, to 36% merit or above for Design and Development for Engineering and Manufacturing.
- Very few Distinction* grades were awarded in 2024, only 14 in total, with only 4 achieved in any engineering or tech-related T Levels – 2 in Digital Support Services, 1 in Building Services Engineering for Construction, and 1 in Design, Surveying and Planning.
- 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 2024

T Level course	Distinction/ Distinction* (%)	Merit or above (%)	Pass or above (%)
Design, Surveying and Planning for Construction	13.7	72.9	94
Digital Production, Design and Development	12.2	49.2	83.4
Building Services Engineering for Construction	7.5	36.8	77.7
Digital Support Services	18.4	51	79.6
Onsite Construction	11.6	53.6	80.4
Design and Development for Engineering and Manufacturing	7	36.4	69.9
Engineering, Manufacturing, Processing and Control	12.6	61.1	92.6
Maintenance, Installation and Repair for Engineering and Manufacturing	6.5	45.2	77.9
All engineering and tech-related T Levels	**11.1**	**51.1**	**82.2**
All T Levels	**15.9**	**62.7**	**88.7**

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 (20%) but particularly in engineering and technology-related subjects (22%), are offered in the North West compared to their share of the population (13%).
- The North East, Yorkshire, the South East and the South West also all have slightly higher proportions of T Level students than their population share.
- London is achieving particularly poor levels of T Level uptake, with only 7% of all T Levels and 5% of engineering and tech-related T Levels coming from the region, compared to 16% of the population.
- The East of England also has a lower proportion of T Level students (8%) compared to its population share (11%).

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

Region	Total T Levels	Eng and tech T Levels	% of all T Levels	% of eng and tech T Levels	% of English population
North East	480	267	6.5	7.4	4.7
North West	1458	776	19.8	21.6	13.2
Yorkshire and the Humber	819	374	11.1	10.4	9.7
East Midlands	509	249	6.9	6.9	8.6
West Midlands	727	389	9.9	10.8	10.5
East of England	588	287	8.0	8.0	11.2
London	496	176	6.7	4.9	15.5
South East	1331	637	18.0	17.7	16.4
South West	972	443	13.2	12.3	10.1