

# Qualification Description

## T Level Technical Qualification in Craft and Design

T Levels are new qualifications that will follow GCSEs and are equivalent to three A Levels. The T Level Technical Qualification in Craft and Design will start in September 2024.

T Levels will combine classroom theory and practical learning, and are made up of the following:

- Technical Qualification: the substantial component of your course.
- Industry placement: of at least 315 hours (approximately 45 days) with an employer to make sure you have authentic experience of the workplace.

The Technical Qualification (TQ) is the main classroom-based element of the T Level. During your two-year course, you will learn the core knowledge that underpins the sector, and you will also develop occupationally specific skills that will allow you to enter skilled employment within a specific occupation.

## What is the Craft and Design sector?

The Craft sector contributes approximately £3.4 billion to the UK economy providing goods and services relating to jewellery, textiles, furniture and ceramics<sup>1</sup>. There are an estimated 11,620 UK crafts businesses, employing around 150,000 people. Approximately 88% of craft businesses in the UK are sole traders, and craft workers are employed by businesses both within and outside of the creative industries. The UK's craft sector supports trade and commerce around the world with over £5bn of exports annually. Craft services are essential to the UK's future as a global, outward-looking, free-trading nation.

The Design sector in the UK is responsible for an estimated £3.949 bn of Gross Value Added (GVA) with approximately 163,000 design and designer fashion jobs in the creative industries. Including all design roles both within and outside of creative industries, the design economy contributes approximately £71.7bn in GVA. According to the Design Council's report on 'The Design Economy' the contribution of design to the total export of goods and services from the UK is £34bn, equivalent to 7.3 per cent of total UK exports.

<sup>1</sup> Crafts Council - written evidence (CRF0005): House of Lords Communications and Digital Committee inquiry "A creative future" <https://committees.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/110746/pdf/>

## Who is this Technical Qualification for?

This Technical Qualification can only be taken as part of a T Level course and is not available as a stand-alone qualification. It is for post-16 students and is ideal if you are intending to progress directly to an apprenticeship/employment within the Craft and Design sector in areas such as Bespoke Furniture Maker, Garment Maker Jeweller, Silversmith, Ceramics Manufacturer or Textile Designer. Students may also wish to progress to a related apprenticeship, or to further study in higher education.

Employers vary within the profession; from small craft employers and individuals to larger design firms linked to manufacturing. All careers in Craft and Design require good communication skills, creative ideation and practical making skills, time management, attention to detail and the ability to collaborate to meet client needs.

## What does the Technical Qualification cover?

The content is split into a core component that has been created for this T Level Technical Qualification in Craft and Design and a choice of one of four occupational specialisms. The specialisms are:

- **Jewellery Maker**
- **Ceramics Maker**
- **Furniture Maker or Upholstery Maker**
- **Textiles and Fashion Maker.**

The core component provides a broad understanding of the creative industry and covers the following topics:

- The creative economy
- The individual in the creative industries
- Cultural context and vocabulary
- Audience
- Legislation/regulation
- Professionalism and ethics
- Equality, diversity and inclusion
- Research skills
- Project methodology and administration
- Continued professional development.

The core component will be assessed by one exam and an employer set project.

Your choice of occupational specialism will allow you to develop the relevant skills in preparation for your career in the craft and design sector. The occupational specialisms

are assessed through practical projects. The content for each occupational specialism covers the following topics, which have been contextualised to be specific to the specialism:

- Creative propositions and briefs
- Creative product development
- Design processes
- Materials, tools, processes, and techniques

As part of this Technical Qualification, you will also enhance your broader skills in literacy and numeracy, which will be valuable in supporting progression in other areas. In addition, you will develop transferable technical and practical skills in communication, collaboration (working with colleagues), research and project work, providing you with an opportunity to demonstrate your reflective learning and identifying improvements.

## What could this Technical Qualification lead to?

Achieving this Technical Qualification will provide several progression options. These could include:

### Skilled employment:

Fashion and Textiles

Junior Sewer, Pattern Cutter Assistant, Wardrobe Assistant, Apprentice Tailor, Production/Design Assistant

Jewellery

Apprentice Silversmith, Junior Setter, Junior Polisher, Junior Caster, Junior Waxer, Jobbing Jeweller, Junior Quality Control Technician, Junior Engraver, Junior Enameller, Junior Repair Technician/Restorer, Junior CAD Technician, Junior Machinist/CNC Operator, Workshop Assistant

Ceramics

Apprentice Ceramicist, Apprentice Potter, Junior Ceramics Manufacturer, Slip-Caster, Junior Finisher, Junior Repair Technician/Restorer, Workshop Assistant

## Furniture and Upholstery

Apprentice Furniture Manufacturer, Apprentice Fabricator, Apprentice Cabinet Maker/Assembler, Junior Bench Joiner, Junior Machinist/CNC Operator, Apprentice Upholsterer, Junior Upholstery Machinist, Junior Interior Installer, Junior Repair Technician/Restorer, Workshop Assistant

### Degree related programmes:

- BA in Ceramic Design
- BA in Pattern and Garment Technology
- BA in Product and Furniture Design
- BA in Jewellery and Silversmithing
- BA in Fashion Design
- BA in Fashion Textiles
- BA in Interior Design
- BA in Design Crafts
- BA in Textiles

Like many degree programmes, there are a spectrum of entry requirements for each of the above, so be prepared to show a portfolio or speak about your experience. When it comes to soft skills, you'll want to show curiosity, a natural flair, creativity, consistency, patience, and drive.

## Who supports this Technical Qualification?

This Technical Qualification has been developed in collaboration with several employers:

- The Association for Contemporary Jewellery
- National Association of Shopfitters and Interior
- Morley College London
- Phoenix Pottery
- Worldskills UK
- Hockley Mint Ltd
- Lee Dawson
- UK Fashion and Textiles Association
- Sarah Atkinson
- Worshipful Company of Upholders
- Association of Master Upholsterers & Soft Furnishers (AMUSF)
- Kirsty Lockwood Furnishings
- Twist and Shout Design
- Furniture Makers Company

- Tim Beasley Sculpture, Moulding & Casting
- Gayle Atkins Ethical Fashion
- Thornhill & Co. Design & Photography
- The Argentum Design Company.

## Further information

Further information about this Technical Qualification can be accessed at:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/t-levels.html>

The T Level Technical Qualification in Craft and Design will be approved and managed by the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education. Pearson is currently authorised by the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education to design and deliver the Technical Qualification.

For further information on the other components please see the [DfE website](#).