

T Levels Research Study: Exploring Providers' Preparation for the Delivery of the first T Levels

Information sheet for post-16 technical education providers and key sector representatives

What is the aim of the research?

The National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) is exploring how the first T Level providers are preparing for implementation in September 2020. This independent research will be undertaken between January and June 2019 and will inform T Level-related policy and practice.

T Levels are new two-year courses, designed with employers, to give young people the skills that industry needs. They will give post-GCSE students a technical alternative to A levels. The first three T Levels in: Digital, Production, Design and Development; Design, Surveying and Planning; and Education will be delivered from September 2020.

What activities will the research involve for providers?

The research involves two key data gathering activities with post-16 technical education providers and key sector representatives. These are described below.

1. Telephone interviews with post-16 technical education providers

We will undertake telephone interviews with a key person responsible for planning the delivery of T Levels within the 52 providers implementing the first T Levels. We expect this to be a head of faculty/department/sector lead or a senior leader responsible for developing T Levels across the institution/organisation. Consultees can take part in shorter interviews (of 15-20 minutes) or longer, more in-depth interviews (lasting 30-45 minutes). We are keen to engage as many providers as possible and will also offer the option of an email response, if that is preferable.

During the interviews we will explore how providers are preparing for the delivery of T levels including what is working well, key learning and how any challenges are being addressed.

2. Telephone interviews with key sector representatives

We will conduct telephone interviews (of around 20-30 minutes) with key sector representatives to explore their views on how the sector is preparing for T Levels, perceptions of effective practice and challenges.

What's in it for post-16 technical education providers and sector representatives?

At the end of the study, all consultees will be sent a link to the research report and executive summary.

Consultees will also be invited to a round table event to discuss the findings and their implications for policy and practice.

When will I need to get involved?

Telephone interviews with providers

- **January-March 2019:** we will undertake shorter (15-20 minute) and more in-depth (30-45 minute) telephone interviews with providers.

Telephone interviews with key sector representatives

- **February-March 2019:** we will undertake 20-30 minute telephone interviews with key sector representatives.

Round table event

- **June 2019:** we will invite all consultees to a round table event at which we will present the findings of the research and facilitate a discussion on their implications for policy and practice.

Who is NFER?

NFER is an independent research organisation with many years' experience of undertaking research and evaluation with schools. For more information please visit:

<http://www.nfer.ac.uk/>

Who can I contact for more information?

Suzanne Straw, the Project Director at NFER, is very happy to answer any questions you might have. Please contact her on 01904 567661 or at: s.straw@nfer.ac.uk

Thank you very much for your support with this research.