

T Level Transition Programme Research Study

Information sheet for T Level Transition Programme providers

What is the research and why is it taking place?

The Department for Education (DfE) has commissioned The National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) to undertake research on the first phase of implementation of the T Level Transition Programme. The research will be undertaken between October 2019 and September 2021 and will cover preparations in the academic year 2019-20 and delivery in the academic year 2020-21.

The research will explore how the T Level Transition Programme is being prepared for, supported and delivered, as well as identifying learning and effective practice. This will involve exploring how the support package (which includes the framework for delivery, the support programme delivered by the Association of Colleges and their partners The Challenge Network, and the early adopter development fund) is helping providers to plan, design and deliver their T Level Transition Programme.

We would very much like you to take part in the research; your perspectives will be invaluable in informing the next round of implementation and the support that is provided, as well as in providing useful learning for future providers of the Transition Programme.

What activities will the research involve for my organisation?

The research involves three key data gathering activities which are highlighted below.

1. Initial consultations with providers, November-December 2019

We would like to undertake initial interviews of around an hour with the staff member responsible for the Transition Programme in 15 of the 32 Transition Programme providers. Four interviews will be undertaken face-to-face and 11 will be undertaken by telephone. The telephone interviews will use Go To Meeting software so that documents can be viewed and amended in real time. We will provide you with guidance on this approach in advance of the interviews.

2. Start of delivery year interviews with providers, November - December 2020

The second stage of fieldwork was originally scheduled for the end of the preparation year but it had to be paused due to Covid-19. The fieldwork will now restart again in November 2020 and will explore providers' preparations for delivery and early experiences of delivery. We would like to conduct telephone interviews of around an hour with the staff member responsible for the Transition Programme in all of the 32 providers delivering the programme.

3. End of delivery year case studies and interviews with providers, May-July 2021

At the end of the delivery year, we would like to consult with all of the providers delivering the Transition Programme. This will include case-study visits to 6 providers and telephone interviews with the remaining 26 providers.

The 6 case-study visits will last around half a day and will include an interview with the staff member responsible for the Transition Programme and focus groups with learners. As appropriate, we would also like to consult with a staff member with overall responsibility for T Levels, or other staff involved in the Transition Programme and T Levels dependent on individual provider set up.

Data protection

The Department for Education is the data controller for the research. It will share contact details for the delivery support organisation staff and key staff at providers involved in the Transition Programme with the NFER research team. Participation in all research activities is entirely voluntary. Interviewees will be fully briefed on the purposes of the study and how the information they provide will be used before consenting to take part. Contact details will only be used for the purposes of completing interviews and case studies. We operate fully in-line with data protection legislation (including GDPR) and we will not use the information we receive for anything other than this research.

The Department for Education will publish a report in autumn 2021, written by NFER, which will present the findings of the research. The report will be made available on .gov.uk to the general public and will be based on anonymised findings. No individual, provider or delivery support organisation will be identifiable from the report, unless permission has explicitly been given by the data subject.

Who is NFER?

NFER is an independent research organisation with many years' experience of undertaking research and evaluation with post-16 education and training providers. For more information please visit: <http://www.nfer.ac.uk/>

Where can I go for more information?

More details about the research including a link to this information sheet and an associated privacy notice can be found here: <https://www.nfer.ac.uk/for-schools/participate-in-research/t-level-transition-programme-research/>

In addition, Suzanne Straw, the project director at NFER, or Eve Schofield, the project manager at DfE are very happy to answer any questions. Please contact Suzanne on 01904 567661 or at s.straw@nfer.ac.uk or Eve on 07384245325 or at: eve.schofield@education.gov.uk

Thank you very much for your support with this research.