

# Adaptation Addendum

## Academic Year 2021-2022

### Introduction

The government's intention is that industry placements, exams and assessments will take place in the academic year 2021 to 2022. Therefore, we also remain committed to ensuring exams and assessments go ahead in the academic year 2021 to 2022. This is because assessments and exams continue to be the fairest way for students to evidence what they know, all other things being equal.

We recognise that students who will be taking exams and assessments in 2021 to 2022 have had significant disruption to their education since March 2020, and we remain committed in continuing to support students in the face of any further disruption.

In the academic year of 2021 to 2022 under the 'Vocational and Technical Qualifications Contingency Regulatory Framework' (VCRF) all qualifications will move into Category A. This means all assessments are expected to continue but we are permitted to continue to make adaptations to assessments and qualifications to take account of the ongoing impact of the pandemic, where we can do so without undermining the validity and reliability of our qualifications.

T Levels<sup>1</sup> adaptations may be considered to the delivery of Occupational Specialism assessments only. This may include, for example, pushing the set time for the Occupational Specialism assessment back further in the academic year so students have more time to develop required skills. Any adaptations proposed would need to be agreed by Ofqual and the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (the Institute) before being communicated. Students must only access adaptations where approved and where they are needed to mitigate the impact of learning loss, continued disruption and / or ongoing public health restrictions. This will be monitored through our external quality assurance process to support the validation of any adaptations adopted, ensuring they are not applied where not needed.

This addendum contains further information on what specific adaptations are permitted for this qualification in the academic year of 2021 to 2022, please see further details below.

Summary of changes		
December 2021	Version 2.0	Updated to reflect introduction of temporary flexibilities to support industry placements

### Assessment adaptation

No.	Assessment	2021/2022 Academic Year Adaptations
n/a	Temporary flexibilities for industry placements	<p>Recognising the ongoing impact of Covid-19, the Department for Education has introduced temporary flexibilities for 2020 and 2021 T Level students undertaking Health and Science. These flexibilities will ensure that industry placements are deliverable and aligned to current working practices. They will be withdrawn in July 2023.</p> <p><b>Blended placements</b> Applicable to 2021 T Level students taking T Levels in the Health and Science route, which include Science.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providers are expected to make every effort to source in-person placements and a blended placement should only take place by exception when all other avenues have been exhausted.</li> <li>• We have set different rules for Wave 1 and Wave 2: o for Wave 1, up to 40% of the placement hours can be undertaken remotely and 60% of time must be in the workplace o for Wave 2, up to 25% of the placement hours can be undertaken remotely and 75% of time must be in the workplace.</li> <li>• The location of the remote hours can either take place at the provider setting, or – where appropriate – can take place in an employer training centre, which simulates the working environment and is supervised by the employer. The students should not work from their home setting.</li> <li>• The placement must reflect the working practices of the industry and the individual employer, and the provider and the employer must agree which elements of the placement can be achieved through remote working.</li> <li>• An employer training centre could be considered a viable option where the normal working environment is not accessible to the student, for example, in some healthcare or hospital settings where access can be limited to permanent staff to protect the safety of the patients; and also, where the employer has suitable training facilities that simulate the normal working environment. Or for Digital placements, working from the provider site</li> </ul>

		<p>could be a viable option where the employer works primarily from home and/or doesn't have permanent office space to accommodate students.</p> <p><b>Pathway level placements for Health, Healthcare Science and Science T Levels</b> Applicable to 2021 T Level students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Providers are expected to make every effort to source placements relevant to the occupational specialism and pathway level placements should only take place by exception when all other avenues have been exhausted.</li><li>• Where possible, providers should aim for a significant proportion of the placement content to be relevant to the students' occupational specialism. The placement objectives could also cover the core and pathway level components, that support their learning and to ensure the student is prepared for their occupational specialism assessments.</li><li>• The placement content could also offer the student the opportunity to apply their core technical skills, that could apply across different settings, such as person-centred care, infection control, safeguarding, managing personal information, across a broad range of specialisms.</li><li>• Providers should identify other relevant and useful activities and learning the students can do/be provided with during their learning to ensure they are able to development the relevant technical knowledge, skills, and behaviours to their occupational specialism.</li><li>• A pathway level placement can be applied to Health, Healthcare Science and Science T Level students.</li></ul> <p>Further guidance will follow on this soon.</p> <p>For full details, please refer to <a href="#">Temporary flexibilities for Wave 1 and Wave 2 industry placements</a>. <i>(Further guidelines are available in Annex A)</i></p> <p>Providers must still plan to deliver placements against the core principles set out in the T Level industry placement delivery guidance. These flexibilities should be used by exception and as a last resort.</p>
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6	Set date assessments: Core Exam	<p>The arrangements for T Levels set out in the <a href="#">VCRF consultation outcomes</a> are, in line with other VTQs, that exams and assessments should go ahead in 2021 to 2022. There will be no adaptations to the core exam.</p> <p>The key dates schedule can be found here: <a href="https://www.qualhub.co.uk/media/17784/nfce-t-level_key-dates-schedule.pdf">https://www.qualhub.co.uk/media/17784/nfce-t-level_key-dates-schedule.pdf</a></p>
9	Employer-set project for T Levels	<p>The arrangements for T Levels set out in the <a href="#">VCRF consultation outcomes</a> are, in line with other VTQs, that exams and assessments should go ahead in 2021 to 2022. There will be no adaptations to the employer-set project.</p> <p>The key dates schedule can be found here: <a href="https://www.qualhub.co.uk/media/17784/nfce-t-level_key-dates-schedule.pdf">https://www.qualhub.co.uk/media/17784/nfce-t-level_key-dates-schedule.pdf</a></p>

12	Synoptic assignments and observation of skills assessment within occupational specialisms of the Technical Qualification: T Levels	<p>The arrangements for T Levels set out in the <a href="#">VCRF consultation outcomes</a> are, in line with other VTQs, that exams and assessments should go ahead in 2021 to 2022. To help students prepare for occupational specialism assessments, there may be adaptations made to the delivery of occupational specialism assessments. This may include, for example, pushing the set time for occupational specialism assessments back further in the academic year so students have more time to develop required skills. Any adaptations proposed will need to be agreed by Ofqual and the Institute. Any further adaptations, if approved, will be communicated to customers as soon as we are able to.</p> <p>The key dates schedule can be found here: <a href="https://www.qualhub.co.uk/media/17784/ncfe-t-level_key-dates-schedule.pdf">https://www.qualhub.co.uk/media/17784/ncfe-t-level_key-dates-schedule.pdf</a></p>
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