



**Dear partner,**

Thank you for partnering with the Department for Education and SDN Mesma Group to help raise awareness and embed T Level industry placements support across the engineering and manufacturing sectors. We are looking forward to working with you.

As you will know, T Levels are now available in Engineering, Manufacturing, Processing and Control, and other roles relevant to the engineering and manufacturing industry. T Level industry placements are an important lever your members can use to bridge skills gaps, build a strong talent pipeline, bring fresh thinking into their organisation and support long-term workforce development.

The Government recently introduced funding (for 2025-26) to help SMEs cover the essential costs of hosting industry placements, and industry placement delivery approaches have been updated to allow for a wider range of organisations to be involved. Resources, webinars and 1-2-1 support are also available to help employers understand, plan and host industry placements.

It's an important time to let employers know about T Level industry placements and the support available to them. That's why the DfE has put dedicated support in place for specific sector bodies:

*"We recognise trade associations and sector bodies play a vital role in shaping the future workforce by supporting members to build strong talent pipelines. Through our partnership with SDN, we're providing additional support to help your organisation embed advice about T Level industry placements into your services, giving more young people access to meaningful opportunities to develop the skills employers need."* - **Department for Education**

Below, we have included more information about how we would like to work with you over the coming months, as you champion T Levels in the engineering and manufacturing industries. We have attached a separate pack with ready-made content and graphics for you to copy, paste and use on your website and communication channels.

We very much look forward to working with you on this important initiative and would like to thank you for your support. If you have any questions or need anything throughout our partnership, please feel free to contact us, your dedicated Partnership Managers.

**Warm regards,**

*Ruth Joseph & Carly Ward*

**SDN Mesma Group**

***In partnership with the Department for Education (DfE)***





# T-LEVEL INDUSTRY PLACEMENT WELCOME PACK

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## **For Engineering and Manufacturing Intermediaries**

*In partnership with the Department for Education (DfE)  
and SDN Mesma Group*



Department  
for Education



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## **A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO T LEVELS**

T Levels are qualifications for young people aged 16-19, developed in collaboration with employers. A T Level is a two-year qualification that combines classroom learning with real-world experience. Unlike apprenticeships, where students spend most of their time in the workplace, T Level students spend 80% of their time in the classroom and 20% on a structured industry placement lasting around 45 days (315 hours).

[Click here to watch a short explainer video and learn more about T Levels](#)

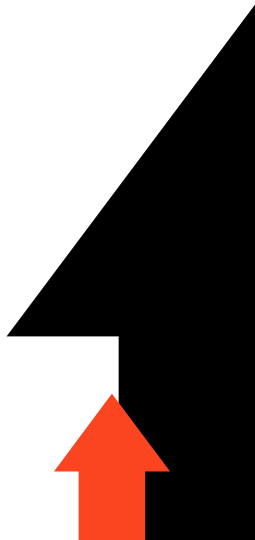
### **Benefits for the engineering and manufacturing sector:**

- Attract and build a future talent pipeline
- Offer young people a meaningful insight into engineering and manufacturing careers
- Funding available (2025-26) for SMEs to help cover essential placement costs
- Flexible models to suit your member organisation's structure and working patterns

[Click here to learn more about why employers are offering T Level placements and how they expand opportunities for young people.](#)

## **SUPPORT FOR YOUR MEMBER ORGANISATIONS**

[T Level industry placement support for employers](#) (TLIPSE) is the national hub for T Level information and support for employers. There are many useful resources, tools and case studies to help your members understand, plan and host T Level placements in their organisation. You can also find more information on all the [T Level subjects and routes here.](#)



### **We also provide:**

- Regular online CPD sessions to help employers understand what's involved and how to host industry placements in particular roles
- One-to-one calls and advice for employers to talk about their plans and address any questions or challenges

### **Here are a couple of inspiring case study videos showcasing T Levels in the engineering and manufacturing sectors:**

- Warren Services manufacturing case study: [T Level industry placements – Warren Services](#)
- Redpack Packaging Machinery case study: [Skills for Life – Redpack Packaging Machinery](#)

If you know of any success stories and are interested in developing a case study, please let us know as we may be able to work with you and your members.

## **SUPPORT FOR YOU AS AN INDUSTRY BODY**

We know you play an incredibly important role in advising and supporting your members with workforce development. Working with you, SDN Mesma Group will equip you with the information and resources you need to embed T Level information into your support and advice to members, available until August 2026.

### **We're keen to work with you over the coming months. Here's how:**

- Use the communication/content pack and graphics provided to help you start embedding T Level industry placement support into your member communications and advice
- Invite us to member meetings to talk about T Levels
- Co-host a webinar with us for your members
- Plan in-person visits at events or meetings with a T Level industry placement specialist
- Receive and use quarterly content/comms, sharing the latest resources, webinars and 1-2-1 support for your members.

Your dedicated Partnership Managers are Ruth Joseph and Carly Ward. They can be reached on the emails provided below and will support you on your journey as you communicate and support members with T Level industry placements.

*There is no charge for any of the support for employers and industry bodies above, which is fully funded by the Department for Education.*

We look forward to working with you on this important initiative!

 **CARLY WARD**

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