

NCFE

Our Technical Education offer



EMPOWERING YOUNG LEARNERS

for successful futures

We're NCFE: an educational charity and leader in vocational and technical learning. **We combine over 170 years of experience** with deep insight, working with a network of expert collaborators to shape smarter solutions. In doing this, we're working for a fairer education system for all learners to power inclusivity and choice.

We were born in 1848 from the belief that **no learner should be left behind**. Today, we're taking up that cause with fresh energy. We're on a mission to shape smarter learning, and we need schools, colleges, teachers and leaders like you to make it happen.

Our Technical Education portfolio supports young people aged 14-19. We aim to support learner progression through a range of subject specialisms, equipping them on their journey towards a brilliant career.

We empower learners with industry-relevant skills and knowledge appropriate to a range of growing sectors. Plus, all our technical and vocational qualifications come with wraparound support and resources to support learners to succeed every step of the way.



Our solutions span four different areas:

- **14- to 16-year-old vocational education** – including our popular V Cert Technical Awards
- **T Levels** – we're proud to have been selected by Government to spearhead the development of T Level qualifications in a number of sector areas
- **16- to 19-year-old vocational education** – we'll help you build well-rounded study programmes
- **Progression to Higher Education** – including expansion into exciting new areas such as our new Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs).

Finding the best fit for you

Schools (14-16)

Developing a broad and balanced Key Stage 4 curriculum is key to improving the quality of education in schools. Delivering a mixture of academic and technical/vocational qualifications allows you to build an engaging, full curriculum that meets the needs of every pupil. We'll support you in creating a programme that maximises each pupil's potential and drives results across your school.

We offer:

- V Cert Technical Awards
- Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) qualifications
- English and maths interventions.

What are V Certs?

V Cert Technical Awards are vocational alternatives to GCSEs, designed to fit seamlessly alongside core subjects. Many of our V Certs carry performance points which count within the 'open group' of Progress 8.

Designed in collaboration with employers and practitioners, our V Certs provide pupils with both the knowledge and practical, transferable skills which will prepare them for the next stage of their journey – be that further education or employment.

Support for V Cert delivery

- **CPD webinars:** giving you the skills and knowledge to confidently deliver these subject areas
- **Free teaching and learning resources:** to help you build exciting and engaging lessons for your pupils and spend less time planning.

To find out more, visit ncfe.org.uk/technical-education/schools-14-16

T Levels

Launched in September 2020, T Levels¹ are an exciting high-quality, work-focused alternative to A Levels for those aged 16-18. These two-year courses are designed with employers to intimately reflect the needs of the sectors and occupations they're designed to serve.

We use deep insight into what employers need to design qualifications for a highly skilled, adaptive future workforce. Our T Level technical qualifications come under three main subject areas:

- Education and Childcare
- Digital
- Health and Science.

We're also proud to be developing 3 new T Level technical qualifications launching from 2023 onwards in Hairdressing, Barbering and Beauty Therapy, Craft and Design, and Media, Broadcast and Production.

Why T Levels?

T Levels offer students many benefits, as they:

- Attract UCAS points
- Are equivalent to 3 A Levels
- Include a substantial industry placement
- Have been created in collaboration with employers
- Support progression into skilled work and higher or degree-level apprenticeships, or higher-level study, including university.

To find out more, visit ncfe.org.uk/technical-education/t-levels

¹T Level is a registered trademark of the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education.

The T Level technical qualification is a qualification approved and managed by the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education.



One of the main reasons that we chose this qualification was because of the vocational education and specifically, the placement section. The balance between 'textbook learning' and hands on experience was appealing – work experience is very valuable in any sector you might go into, so getting to do this as part of an FE course is really quite amazing."

Alice and Chloe,
Education and Childcare T Level students at Gateshead College

Technical Education (16-19)

Give your learners the best possible chance of success with our range of high-quality qualifications and learning resources. We offer substantial sector-based vocational qualifications alongside shorter courses to create an individualised experience for all learners.

We believe these routes empower learners and equip them with the skills they need now and for the future, whatever it might hold.

16-19 study programmes

Whether your pupils are going on to further study or embarking on a career, our qualifications will help you build study programmes to give them the best possible chance of success. They allow you to build a bespoke programme, personalised to fit around each individual, meeting their needs and career goals.

Our study programmes are created by combining four key components:

- Core: A substantial level 2 or 3 qualification that constitutes at least half of a learner's programme, i.e. over 270 Planned Learning Hours (PLH). We have a range of level 2 and 3 technical qualifications in nested suites designed to develop knowledge and skills for employment.
- Enhance: Our free Enhance resources help you develop a high-quality employability, enrichment, and pastoral (EEP) programme that complements learning and boosts transferable skills. These resources come as standard with core qualifications and can be delivered in non-qualification hours.
- Wraparound: Smaller qualifications that augment the core aim. We have short level 1, 2 and 3 qualifications across a range of cross-curricular disciplines, such as employability, digital, study, and functional skills.
- Diagnostics: Our unique skills assessment portfolio provides leading e-Learning solutions for English and maths, employability, and digital skills. The platform provides accurate visibility of learner's progress and digitally captures evidence of their skills, knowledge and occupational competency.

Real life learners: Here is an example of how to create a bespoke study programme for a learner with specific career goals.

Sophie

Having grown up in a seaside town, Sophie has seen the profound effect that the tourism industry can have on an area. She is excited to explore this area more at college, and to improve her understanding of the global travel economy. She achieved a grade 4 in English and maths at GCSE.



Year 1

		Planned Learning Hours (PLH)
Core	NCFE Level 3 Diploma in Travel and Tourism (601/7935/1)	360
Enhance	Comprehensive suite of NCFE EEP resources including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Team Working• Building Professional Relationships• Managing Change	36
Wraparound	NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Understanding Climate Change and Environmental Awareness(603/5683/2)	110
Work Experience	2 weeks	70
Total PLH		576

Year 2

		Planned Learning Hours (PLH)
Core Aim	NCFE Level 3 Diploma in Travel and Tourism (601/7935/1)	360
Enhance	Comprehensive suite of NCFE EEP resources including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interview Techniques• Writing a CV• Demonstrating Commercial Awareness	0
Wraparound	NCFE Level 2 Award for Resort Representatives (600/7817/0)	70
Work Experience	3 weeks	105
Total PLH		571

To find out more, visit ncfe.org.uk/study-programmes

“

I really enjoy teaching this V Cert [in Engineering]. The learners are fully engaged which makes teaching the course a pleasure and is reigniting my own interest. Because the learners and I enjoy the course, there is a lovely atmosphere in the classroom.”

Laura Mulligan,
Engineering Teacher at Beverley Grammar School



Our results show that NCFE qualifications cover the essential foundational knowledge needed to provide learners with access to higher education studies."

Tim Barry,
Head of the Department for Medical & Sport Sciences
at University of Cumbria

Progression to Higher Education (HE)

Are NCFE's Level 3 qualifications recognised by universities?

Ensuring your learners are ready to progress to the next stage of their education or career is your number one goal. That makes it our number one goal. We'll ensure your learners are ready to enter university, with many of our qualifications carrying UCAS points.

Large UK universities, including Russell Group institutions, support our qualifications. They accept these as a valid entry route to HE*. We're also members of several influential organisations that champion progression to HE with vocational qualifications, including UCAS, University Vocational Awards Council (UVAC) and Higher Education Liaison Officers Association (HELOA).

*You should check entry requirements with your preferred HE institute, as HE institutions set their own entry requirements for degree courses.

Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs)

What can NCFE offer at higher levels?

Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs) are Level 4 and 5 qualifications that follow occupational maps. They offer learners the opportunity to start the jobs they want at entry level or pursue higher education (HE). We're developing 5 HTQs in Digital and Healthcare, launching in September 2023:

- NCFE Level 4 Diploma: Cyber Security Engineer
- NCFE Level 4 Diploma: Data Analyst
- NCFE Level 4 Diploma: Digital Accessibility Specialist
- NCFE Level 4 Diploma: Network Engineer
- NCFE Level 4 Diploma: Healthcare Science Associate.

To find out more,
visit ncfe.org.uk/technical-education/progression-to-higher-education

Shaping smarter learning with NCFE's skills assessment and diagnostic tools



NCFE is proud to offer one of the UK's leading eLearning software and assessment solutions for Functional Skills, GCSEs, apprenticeships and employability skills.

Our eLearning, assessment and skills development platform is used by colleges, training providers and employers who want accurate visibility of learner/apprentice progress. The platform enables providers to digitally capture evidence of an individual's skills, knowledge and occupational competency and supports their further development with high-quality resources.



SKILLS BUILDER

Skills Builder is a comprehensive initial assessment which determines your learners' or apprentices' current levels in Functional Skills and GCSE maths and English, Essential Digital Skills, and ESOL.

- Designed for schools, colleges, training providers and employers, Skills Builder provides in-depth progression tracking and reporting dashboards to support enhanced teaching and compliance.
- Ofsted and ESFA compliant, our diagnostic assessments aim to significantly raise the standards of teaching and learning.
- Our eLearning platform is accessible 24/7, where users can find personalised learning resources, determined by their diagnostic assessment, to support their continued improvement and achievement.

SKILLS PORTFOLIO

Skills Portfolio is a bespoke digital portfolio which has all the unique features you need to manage and monitor your delivery, with benefits including:

- A bespoke and personalised learning solution – it adapts to your participants' specific qualification, apprenticeship, T Level or training plan, and has a built-in Individual Learning Plan (ILP) functionality.
- Remote delivery of outstanding teaching, learning, and assessment, with unlimited access for your staff.
- The ability to track learner progress and participation, generate real-time reports from our custom-built data dashboards and then review and provide 360 degree feedback.
- Access to a variety of quality sampling plans for IQAs and EQAs.
- Logging each learner's off-the-job time with our calculator and activity log.
- Being able to provide evidence of work for employers and end-point assessment.
- Complete integration – Skills Portfolio integrates seamlessly into your MIS/CRM and IT systems.

SKILLS WORK

Skills Work is a psychometric employability skills test that quickly and objectively measures a learner/apprentice's core employability skills and identifies strengths and weaknesses.

- They'll receive a tailored and personalised learning plan based on the areas identified for further development. Skills Work is supported by a set of innovative resources including video tutorials, interactive games, and summative assessments which support the development of key skills.

SKILLS REVIEW

Skills Review is a self-assessed skills gap analysis tool that enables a learner/apprentice and their employer to review and input prior learning and measure the key areas of knowledge, skills, competence and behaviours that are part of the apprenticeship standard.

- Our software has been built specifically to self-assess that the apprenticeship is an appropriate training programme for the individual, and what is needed to reach occupational competency. This is validated by the employer and training provider.
- The platform helps you to review and evidence an individual's recognised prior learning (RPL) based on the skills, knowledge and behaviour of their apprenticeship, helping to stay in line with ESFA funding rules and to ensure the individual is at the best starting point for their apprenticeship.
- Training providers can easily review an apprentice's accurate starting point against any apprenticeship standard or framework, and measure their progress throughout the programme to assess end-point assessment Gateway readiness.

To find out more, visit ncfe.org.uk/skills-assessment

LEARNING FOR LIFE

We champion lifelong learning and believe that learning shouldn't stop after age 19. We're here to support providers to upskill and reskill individuals so that they can access high-quality employment opportunities throughout their lives. Our 19+ offer includes:

Apprenticeships

We're proud to provide an end-to-end apprenticeship solution that enables apprentices to achieve success and become productive members of the workforce.

We have solutions to support you from start to finish, including extensive pre-programme support, on-programme qualifications and resources, and a market-leading end-point assessment (EPA) service with a 97% pass rate.

We develop apprenticeships in areas where there is a growing workforce need and exciting opportunities for career progression, such as:

- Business services
- Leadership management
- Education
- Early Years
- Social care
- Health
- Digital
- Finance and compliance.

To find out more, visit ncfe.org.uk/apprenticeships



Learning for Work

Our goal is to empower the future workforce – and upskill the current – with the knowledge and skills they'll need to succeed in employment and across a lifetime of learning. Our Learning for Work offer is aligned with employer needs, with government and with funding initiatives, so our qualifications provide strong opportunities for those aged 19+.

We work with partners in industry to create qualifications that fill skills gaps. Our qualifications encourage individuals to enter sectors where there are labour shortages and opportunities for continuing professional development (CPD) or retraining. This portfolio includes:

- **CPD qualifications:** our range of sector-specific CPD qualifications are designed by specialists in partnership with employers to ensure they provide the relevant skills, knowledge and behaviours.
- **Traineeships:** we'll use our expertise to help you build outstanding traineeship programmes based on the needs of participants.

Many of the qualifications in our Learning for Work portfolio for people aged 19+ are eligible for funding under various government programmes and initiatives. You can read more about the Adult Education Budget (AEB), Advanced Learner Loans and the qualifications we have available under the Lifetime Skills Guarantee on our website.

To find out more, visit ncfe.org.uk/learning-for-work

Learners with SEND



The number of pupils with special educational needs (SEN) increased to 1.49 million pupils in 2022, representing 16.5% of all pupils."

Department for Education, June 2022

Why are V Cert technical awards a great option for your KS4 pupils in mainstream education with SEND?

Our V Cert technical awards are vocational alternatives to GCSEs which count towards the Open Group of your Progress 8 measures. Available in 11 exciting subject areas, they are an ideal option for mainstream schools looking to improve their provision for pupils with SEND through interest-based learning.

Offering a mixture of academic and technical qualifications – such as our V Certs – helps you to build an engaging, full curriculum that meets the needs of every pupil. Plus, allowing pupils to explore and experience different forms of education gives them a solid base to understand their own strengths, skills and talents.

V Cert technical awards are awarded through 60%* project-based non-exam assessment, and 40%* examined assessment, relieving some exam pressure for pupils and allowing them to achieve based on their skills as well as their knowledge.

Alternative Provision

Special Schools, Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) and Alternative Provision schools are essential in ensuring every pupil, no matter what their needs, has the opportunity to succeed in their education.

At NCFE, we are passionate about ensuring no learner gets left behind, and have a range of qualifications which could support learners with Special Schools, PRUs and Alternative Provision:

- **Essential English and maths** in everyday life qualifications allow pupils to use practical skills to demonstrate their ability through portfolio evidence as opposed to a summative assessment.
- **Functional Skills** qualifications provide a more vocational route for English and maths, featuring more problem solving and contextual learning that your pupils can apply in everyday life.
- **Occupational Studies** is a buildable qualification comprised of flexible units which help to build skills supporting progression to the workplace.
- **Relationships, Sex and Health Education** is extremely valuable to pupils, designed to make sure young people are happy, healthy and safe at school, at home and in the community. Our RSHE qualifications ensure all of the statutory government guidance is covered, and your pupils gain a nationally recognised certificate for their achievement.



Contact us

Want to find out more about our Technical Education offer?

Visit: ncfe.org.uk/technical-education

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