



Education and Early Years Generation 2: everything you need to know

10 September 2026

Please ensure you are familiar with the information below for Generation 2 of this qualification.

Updates to the qualification specification

As a reminder, all students who started their T Level in Education and Early Years in September 2025 were registered on Generation 2 of this qualification. Students continue to study and complete the qualification specification they originally registered on:

- Students who started the Education and Early Years T Level before September 2025 are registered on the [T Level Technical Qualification in Education and Early Years \(Generation 1\)](#) and will continue to study and be assessed against this version throughout the remainder of their programme. They cannot transfer to the updated qualification specification introduced from September 2025.
- Students who enrolled from September 2025 are registered on the [T Level Technical Qualification in Education and Early Years \(Generation 2\)](#) and will be assessed against the [Qualification Specification – teaching from 1 September 2025](#) and will continue to study and be assessed against this specification throughout the remainder of their programme.
- Students enrolling from September 2026 will register on [Qualification Specification - teaching from 1 September 2026](#). A summary of the updates introduced following the annual review process can be found in the change history on page 151.

The final assessment opportunity for students completing the Generation 1 qualification, including any required resits and retakes, will be the summer 2027 assessment series. Please note that this isn't 2028, as previously stated, due to a change in guidance from the Department for Education around resits.

Core changes from Generation 1 to Generation 2

Generation 1 (for students registered from 2020-2024)		Generation 2 (for students registered in 2025 and beyond)	
Core content structure	12	Core content structure	7
Core exam/s	2	Core exam/s	1
Core exams timings	4 hours (2 x 2)	Core exams timings	2 hours 30 minutes
Core Employer Set Project	Assessment of all core skills	Core Employer Set Project	Assessment of all core skills

	Draws on knowledge across all 12 elements when required		Targets elements 1 and 7 more explicitly
Assessment weighting	Paper A: 35% Paper B: 35% Employer Set Project: 30%	Assessment weighting	Core exam: 60% Employer Set Project: 40%
Occupational Specialism content – Early Years Educator (EYE)	Broad outcomes	Occupational Specialism content – Early Years Educator (EYE)	More clearly defined outcomes with clearer links to development and care
Occupational Specialism content - Assisting Teaching (AT)	Broad focus on SEND	Occupational Specialism content - Assisting Teaching (AT)	Stronger focus on SEND and curriculum access
Assessment duration (Occupational Specialism)	Early Years Educator: 25 hours 45 minutes to 29 hours 45 minutes Assisting Teaching: 14 hours 30 minutes to 16 hours 30 minutes	Assessment duration (Occupational Specialism)	Early Years Educator: 21 to 26 hours Assisting Teaching: 9 hours 30 to 12 hours

Final assessment opportunities for Generation 1

The final available assessment opportunity for students completing the Generation 1 qualification, aimed at resits for both the Core Component and the Occupational Specialisms, will be the summer 2027 assessment series, with a final autumn opportunity in autumn 2026.

Please note that there will be no Generation 1 assessments offered in 2027-28, as previously stated, due to a change in guidance from the Department for Education around resits.

Full dates can be found in our [Key Dates Schedule](#).

Moderation key changes from Generation 1 to Generation 2

Area	Generation 1	Generation 2
Moderated Assignment	Assignment 2	Assignment 1
Early Years Educator (EYE) part 1 moderation	All competence-based criteria covered through observation/professional discussion.	Skills-based criteria observed on visit; knowledge-based criteria may be moderated remotely.
Face-to-face sample (Early Years Educator / Assisting Teaching part 2 stage 1)	Up to 3 students sampled. Visits scheduled within a 2-day window.	Sample planned in advance. 1 initial face to face visit with 2 students. This may be followed by up to 2 more face to face visits if required. Visits scheduled as half a day each. Where all visits are not required the remaining sample will be moderated remotely.
Additional sampling (stages 2-3)	Further remote moderation may take place once the assessment window closes (stage 2 and 3 moderation). These stages are only required if a provider is marking out of tolerance during stage 1, meaning further sampling is required. For more information on sample sizes please refer to our moderation webpage .	
Documentation submission	Provider uploads evidence to the portal within 10 working days (remote moderation).	Provider uploads all assessment documentation to the Portal within 2 working days of the visit (for both face-to-face and remotely moderated students).
Moderation approach	Fixed face-to-face and remote sampling arrangements.	More flexible approach with additional face-to-face visits or remote sampling agreed following initial moderation if required.

For more information on the moderation process, please visit our [moderation webpage](#) or watch our YouTube video on [Generation 2 moderation processes](#).

The role of the assessor

The information below will support assessors.

Please note, as part of the Generation 2 requirements, all new assessors need to be approved by NCFE. [See here for further information about the assessor approval process](#).

Action: You must complete the Schedule of Assessment for all students by 31 January. This helps moderators plan face-to-face visits and remote moderation.

To support you in your role, you can:

- [watch our assessor approval video](#)
- [read our FAQs](#)



- [visit our YouTube playlist](#)
- [catch up on our assessor masterclass](#)
- [book a curriculum consultation](#)
- access our [Assisting Teaching Assessor Padlet](#) and [Early Years Assessor Padlet](#)
- [request to join the Community of Best Practice](#).

Early Years Educator occupational specialism, assignment 1 part 1 (Generation 2) – additional guidance for the competence observation criteria

[Visit the qualification webpage](#) for assessment materials, the Early Years Educator competence criteria, and additional guidance.

Summarised guidance

Students registered from 2025 may generate evidence from supervised classroom activity as evidence for knowledge-based criteria, including reflective accounts and written evidence. The provider-appointed occupationally competent assessor must make the final judgement regarding student competence. Further details can be found in the document.

Structured observations

Our Provider Development team will arrange training ahead of the occupational specialisms to include comprehensive coverage of the structured observations. We have been made aware of the challenges of securing a quiet uninterrupted space where the professional discussion can take place. We have produced the statement below to explain the significance of the professional discussions for the structured observations, which you might want to print out and display:

Students on industry placement undertaking structured observation assessments are under exam conditions. Professional discussions must take place in a quiet area. Students should not be disturbed during their examination as their performance is graded and contributes towards 50% of their occupational specialism. Please respect the students' assessment requirements in order to maximise their opportunity for success.

Please support your students by putting this notice up and encouraging colleagues and fellow students to respect and observe exam conditions when professional discussions are taking place.

Next steps for providers

Please ensure you:

- familiarise yourself with the new qualification specifications
- review the updated assessment and moderation guidance
- make relevant staff aware of the changes (those responsible for delivery, assessment and internal quality assurance)
- attend any available training or support sessions
- complete your Schedule of Assessment in full for all students by 31 January.