

## Contracts Finder- Future Opportunity

This notice is for prior information only

### CONTRACTING AUTHORITY

Department for Education  
Address: Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London, United Kingdom  
Postcode: SW1P 3BT

### OBJECT OF THE CONTRACT

TITLE: Future support for T Level and T Level Transition Programme Providers

#### DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES:

##### Background to T Levels and T Level Transition Programme

The UK's technical education system is undergoing far reaching reform. At the heart of the government's Industrial Strategy, is a recognition that it is vital that young people develop the skills that are needed for the jobs of tomorrow. The 2016 Sainsbury Report recommended the introduction of a new system of technical education to provide a high-quality technical option alongside an academic option for pupils aged 16-19. The introduction of T Levels is at the centre of the government's response to this recommendation and will be the most significant reform of post-16 education in a generation. More information on the reforms is available [here](#).

T Levels are introduced in phases throughout the next four years from September 2020. We have selected a small number of providers for the first two years of delivery (around 50 in 2020 and further 63 in 2021) so that they get the support they need and to ensure that T Levels are high quality programmes from the start. We appreciate that T Levels are new and challenging for providers to implement so we have been supporting those first providers to implement T Levels in-house through the ESFA.

Therefore, we think providers delivering from 2022 onwards will need a robust support package to ensure high quality T Levels continue to be delivered. The support package may involve expanding and building on the existing support that is available to providers as well as developing and delivering new ways of supporting providers.

##### *T Level Transition Programme*

The T Level Transition Programme<sup>1</sup> is intended as a pipeline to T Levels and is therefore a fundamental part of the reforms to the technical education system. It is a new type of 16 to 19 study programme, specifically designed to ensure students who would not otherwise have been able to access a T Level are well prepared to start their chosen T Level and are more likely to successfully complete it.

The Transition Programme is being introduced through a phased implementation approach from September 2020. The aim of this phased approach is to work with early T Level providers to develop and explore different approaches to delivery, and to determine the key

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<sup>1</sup> Also referred to as 'Transition Programme' and 'TP'

features of well-designed transition programmes. This will inform further policy development ahead of national roll out.

The support package may involve expanding and building on the existing support that is available to providers delivering the Transition Programme as well as developing and delivering new ways of supporting providers.

We currently have an organisation in place providing a delivery support package to a small group of volunteer T Level providers, in the run up to first delivery in September 2020 and September 2021.

### Required services

The purpose of the support package is to ensure T Level and Transition Programme providers are able to deliver high quality programmes. The package seeks to do this by providing 3 strands of delivery support:

- 1. 2 years of support for 2022, 2023 and 2024 T Level providers to help them prepare to deliver high quality T Levels (hereafter referred to as T Level provider readiness) (support starts 2 years prior to T Level providers delivering T Levels)**

We expect the supplier to deliver the following:

- **Delivery of events and webinars to ensure providers understand the T Level programme and expectations** throughout the 2 year development period prior to delivery.
- **Development of a self-assessment tool** for providers to enable them to measure their readiness to deliver. This will include **supporting providers to complete the self-assessment, and review and feedback of their assessments.**
- **Conducting termly face to face conversations over the 2 year development period** with providers to discuss their self-assessments, track their progress and work through issues that may impact on their readiness to deliver.
- **Development and delivery of case studies and templates** from previous cohorts of T Level providers, plus **delivery of networking opportunities between providers to share best practice.**
- **Targeted and more intensive support for some T Level providers** who need additional support.

- 2. Industry placements (IPs) – support to 2020, 2021 and 2022 providers to deliver high-quality industry placements** (support will be in year support to providers throughout the first 2 years T Level delivery)

Every T Level will include an industry placement to develop the learners' practical and technical skills for the occupation. The placement will be with an employer in the industry linked to the T Level and will last a minimum of 315 hours. We envisage that this support will be needed to ensure the development of high quality IPs.

We expect the support to include the following:

- **Offering pro-active (rather than reactive) support to eligible providers covering preparation and ongoing support as appropriate before and during the placement to ensure that they of a high quality**
- **Working with the provider to secure employer and student feedback to help tailor the support.**

- **Providing a tiered-level of support from light touch to more intensive support according to need at the different stages of the placement –for instance preparation and delivery..**
  - **Delivery of events and webinars to ensure providers understand their roles and responsibilities in delivering high quality placements** and possible models/ approaches for placements (which will also be covered in the IP delivery guidance which will be issued shortly)
  - **Offering structured visits to industry placements to ensure that the right processes and systems are in place** to deliver high quality IPs and ensuring that any delivery risks are fed back to the ESFA.
  - **Delivery of targeted advice to providers on key issues where necessary, including advice on the development of objectives and how to structure placements.**
  - **Gathering good practice and lessons learned** documents from providers throughout the contract and make available for providers to access and learn from.
  - **Identifying and addressing gaps in any existing generic advice and guidance relating to industry placements.**
  - **Design and delivery of network opportunities** to enable providers to network and share good practice with one another.
  - **Design of a self-referral model of support** for 2022 providers and beyond.
3. **Transition Programme (TP) – support to 2022 and 2023 T Level providers to prepare for and deliver the TP in September 2022 and September 2023, and for 2024 providers to prepare for delivering the TP in September 2024.** (support to start with an engagement phase, followed by a preparation year and a delivery year)

TP is a preparation year for young people not quite ready for T Levels – and so is a crucial pipeline to T Levels. We are phasing the implementation of the programme from September 2020 alongside T Levels. We are working with early T Level providers to develop and explore different approaches to delivery, and to determine the key features of well-designed transition programmes. This will inform further policy development ahead of national roll out. We are currently working with providers through an existing supplier so the new supplier will need to be able to build on progress already made.

We expect the support to include the following:

- **Delivery of engagement activities** to ensure providers understand the aims and objectives of the Transition Programme and expectations on what providers can expect to receive through participating in the support programme.
- **Delivery of support to enable providers to design, develop and deliver their Transition Programmes**, including supporting them to explore different aspects and models of delivery, push their thinking and practice and design their Transition Programmes, through a mixture of peer to peer support and national, regional and virtual events.
- **Allocate each provider an expert relationship manager** who will be their key point of contact throughout the support programme, who will **offer additional targeted support on a needs basis.**
- **Gather good practice and lessons learned, develop good practice materials and resources** and make available for providers to access and learn from.

- **Sharing lessons learned with the Department** to inform the ongoing development of policy.

The three strands of support will run to different timescales; the support for provider readiness and industry placements will begin in November 2020 followed by the Transition Programme support starting in Spring 2021.

The ITT will therefore ask bidders to set out detailed proposals for how they would design and deliver the support over a 4 year period from November 20 to 30 September 2024. For the Transition Programme support in particular the ITT will ask bidders to submit a detailed proposal for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the contract which covers the support for providers in their first delivery year

