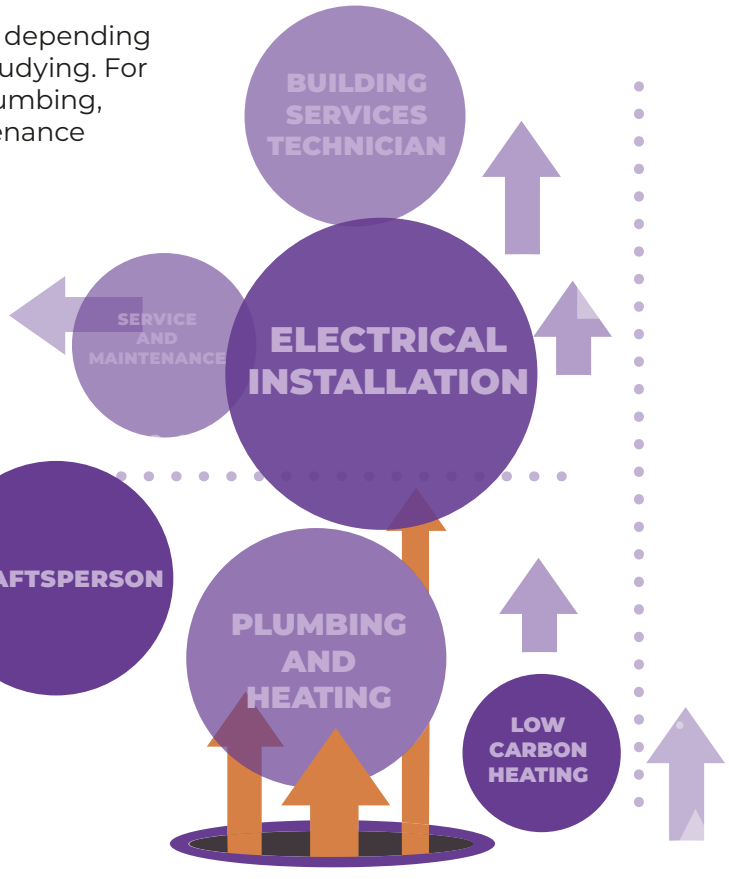
T-LEVELS
THE NEXT LEVEL QUALIFICATION

IS A **BUILDING SERVICES ENGINEERING** T LEVEL RIGHT FOR YOU?

UNDERSTANDING THE INDUSTRY PLACEMENT

A Building Services Engineering (BSE) T Level is not just a workshop or classroom-based course. It includes a substantial industry placement with an employer.

You may hear this route talked about in different ways, depending on your college or school and the specialism you are studying. For example, it may relate to electrical, electrotechnical, plumbing, heating, ventilation, air conditioning or building maintenance pathways.



THE PLACEMENT IS MANDATORY. TO ACHIEVE THE FULL T LEVEL, YOU WILL NEED TO COMPLETE THE PLACEMENT AND SHOW THAT YOU CAN MAKE PROGRESS IN A REAL WORKPLACE.

The placement gives you the chance to experience the sector first-hand, understand how work happens in practice and begin developing the behaviours employers expect. It is a serious commitment, so it is important to understand what may be expected before you start.

Industry placements are usually unpaid. This is because they are a required part of your T Level and are designed to help you gain workplace experience, build confidence and develop the behaviours employers expect. Even though you are not an employee, employers are giving their time, supervision and trust to help you experience real work.

To complete your T Level, you will need to:

- spend time with an external employer
- attend your placement as agreed
- work towards clear learning goals
- behave professionally and safely
- show that you are making progress

Your college or school will support you to prepare, but you will need to take responsibility for your own attendance, behaviour and attitude.

WHAT IS BUILDING SERVICES ENGINEERING?

Building Services Engineering is about the systems that make buildings work safely, efficiently and comfortably.

You may be working in different types of environments, such as workshops or depots, offices, construction sites, domestic properties, schools, hospitals, shops, business premises or live buildings where people are working or using the space.

It can include:

- **electrical systems**
- **plumbing and heating**
- **ventilation and air conditioning**
- **lighting and controls**
- **renewable and low-carbon technologies**
- **building management and maintenance**

PLACEMENT REALITY CHECK

A Building Services Engineering placement is likely to feel very different from college or school. You may need to:

- start earlier than a normal college or school day
- travel to different sites or workplaces
- wear specific appropriate clothing, footwear or PPE
- bring food and water with you
- spend much of the day on your feet
- work indoors, outdoors or across different locations
- begin by observing and supporting small tasks

If travel, clothing, footwear, PPE or equipment is difficult for you to arrange, speak to your college or school as early as possible. Support arrangements vary locally, but your college or school can explain what may be available and what you will need to plan for.

Some tasks may feel simple or repetitive at first. This is normal. You are not expected to know everything straight away.

WHAT EMPLOYERS WILL LOOK FOR

Employers do not expect you to arrive fully trained. They know that you are still learning.

Being ready does not mean being perfect. It means showing that you are reliable, safe, willing to learn and ready to take responsibility.

Employers will be looking for the right attitude. This means being able to:

- turn up on time
- listen carefully and follow instructions
- ask if you are unsure
- work safely and avoid doing anything you have not been shown or asked to do
- stay focused and stay off your phone unless allowed
- communicate respectfully
- accept feedback
- keep trying when something feels difficult

In Building Services Engineering, safety and reliability matter. Small behaviours, such as punctuality, communication and appropriate phone use, can make a big difference.

Being ready does not mean being perfect

WHAT HAPPENS IF A STUDENT IS NOT READY?

Your college or school will support you to build readiness over time.

If there are concerns about safety, behaviour, reliability or communication, you may need extra preparation before starting placement. This is not about stopping you from progressing. It is about making sure the placement is safe, realistic and more likely to succeed.

Employers are giving their time, resources and trust. Students need to show that they are ready to take that seriously.

A Building Services Engineering T Level can be a strong route into the sector and may support progression into employment, further study or an apprenticeship in a related trade or technical pathway.

The industry placement is a key part of that journey. It gives students the chance to experience real work, build confidence and begin developing the behaviours employers value. That starts from the beginning of the course, not just when placement begins.

Quick self-check

Use this as a quick prompt before choosing or starting the course.

- ☐ **I understand that the industry placement is mandatory.**
- ☐ **I understand that placements are usually unpaid, but are an important part of gaining real workplace experience.**
- ☐ **I am ready for early starts, travel and practical workplace expectations.**
- ☐ **I understand that I may begin by observing and supporting small tasks.**
- ☐ **I can listen carefully, follow instructions and work safely.**
- ☐ **I know what support I might need to help me prepare.**
- ☐ **I can think about whether I know anyone who could help me explore opportunities with relevant employers, or ask my college or school for support.**

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