

Russell Group university approaches to T Levels in admissions

Russell Group universities admit students from a wide range of backgrounds who have the potential and motivation to succeed on challenging university programmes. They are committed to fair admissions and give equal consideration to all applicants who possess the required knowledge and skills.

It is important that students are adequately prepared to deal with the demands of higher-level study. Whilst some T Level subjects will provide a good foundation for admission to related degree courses, others may not, particularly where subject specific content is not covered within the T Level course.

There are currently 16 T Level courses available to post-16 students, three of these have been available long enough for a cohort to complete the two-year course. Our universities have reviewed their admissions policies with consideration to the new T Level qualifications and will continue to review their policies as each new T Level course becomes available for study.

Overview of T level admissions policies

The Higher Education and Research Act (2017) protects the autonomy of institutions to determine the criteria for the admission of students and how to apply those criteria. Each Russell Group university takes admissions decisions according to their local context and the academic requirements of individual programmes. Different Russell Group universities will therefore have different approaches to accepting students with T Levels and this will vary across different programmes of study within an institution. We have surveyed Russell Group universities to understand their current approaches to accepting T Level students and found that:

17 of 24 Russell Group universities are accepting T Levels for admission to a limited number of courses.

In the first year of T Level students applying to university, five Russell Group universities accepted at least one student with a T Level qualification.

Examples

University of Birmingham • University of Bristol • University of Cambridge • Middlesex University • Durham University • University of Edinburgh • University of Exeter • University of Glasgow • Imperial College London • King's College London • University of Leeds • University of Liverpool • London School of Economics • The Open University • University of Manchester • University of Nottingham • University of Oxford • University of Sheffield • University of Southampton • University of Warwick • University of York • University of Exeter • University of Glasgow • University of Liverpool • University of Manchester • University of Nottingham • University of Oxford • University of Southampton • University of Warwick • University of York

Admissions policies related to T Levels are being reviewed as each new T Level subject is introduced. It is worth noting that only 1,029 students have completed a T Level. 510 of these students applied to higher education courses in the 2021/22 cycle and 410 (80%) achieved a place at a higher education provider.

Information, Advice and Guidance

Good quality information, advice, and guidance (IAG) is critical in ensuring that students are making the right decisions for their career and future. This is especially true for those embarking on new qualifications such as T Levels where there is less information available from previous cohorts to help students navigate their options.

Russell Group universities who are accepting T Levels have information on their website about how they are being accepted and what kinds of degree courses their T Level could lead to. We have also updated the Russell Group [Informed Choices website](#) to reflect the latest admissions information from our universities.

Through Advancing Access, and partnerships with local schools and colleges including through the Uni Connect programme, our universities are supporting the delivery of IAG to ensure that all students receive the right information about their future choices.

It is important that good quality, transparent IAG continues to be provided by institutions, Government, UCAS and the Office for Students. We welcome the inclusion of [specific guidance](#) from Government on which universities are accepting T Levels, noting the diversity in approaches, and signposting students to university websites and admissions departments.

The long-term view

Russell Group universities are committed to providing pathways for underrepresented students with the potential to succeed. Whilst bridging support through the use of foundation years, and transition programmes are available to help students who do not yet meet the standard entry requirements for their chosen course, our universities must admit students that are going to be able to meet the demands of challenging academic study.

Through established and robust processes, university members will continue to review the acceptance of T Levels as more subjects are introduced.