

Invitation to quote – To support T levels in the Healthcare Sector

Background

T Levels are new courses which follow GCSEs and are equivalent to 3 A levels. These 2-year courses, which launched September 2020, have been developed in collaboration with employers and businesses so that the content meets the needs of industry and prepares students for work, further training or study.

T Levels offer students a mixture of classroom learning and ‘on-the-job’ experience during an industry placement of at least 315 hours (approximately 45 days).

(source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/introduction-of-t-levels/introduction-of-t-levels>)

Context

There are expected to be ~8,711 T level students in Wave 2 who need an Industry Placement. T level providers have not been able to source all of those locally, and so the Employer Engagement and Apprenticeships Performance Division (EEAP) in the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) is carrying out activity which aims to support (30%) of those placements from nationally led activity. Many of these placements will be in Health and Science, a new T Level skill area.

The NHS is the largest employer in England and individual Trusts are anchor institutions for their communities that provide jobs across many skill areas that map to T Levels, including the newly launched Health & Science qualification. They could host industry placements in several of the live routes including Digital where we are facing challenges sourcing placements, and undoubtedly are needed to ensure the successful delivery and reputation of the Health & Science T Level. Currently, we do not have a clear picture of the capacity or readiness of NHS Trusts to host the number of industry placements needed by their local T Level providers to make Wave 2 a success, or deliver sustainable placement programmes when T Levels reach steady state. We do not know how many are in the ‘planning’ stage of their journey or if they are matched with a T Level provider. This poses risks to the T Level Programme

Project requirements

Health Education England (HEE) would like the provider to develop and undertake a maturity modelling exercise of NHS Trusts that could support Wave 2 industry placements. This work will provide a clear picture of the ‘hot’ and ‘cold’ spots of T Level industry placement readiness and capacity. In turn, this will deliver a reliable evidence base to support EEAP’s longer term support strategy for the NHS to support T Levels.

To achieve the above outcomes, the provider must be able to evidence/demonstrate:

- Expertise of T-levels and Industry Placements (IPs)
- A good knowledge around T-levels and IPs
- Specific alignment of T levels with technical education pathways into workforce plans
- having taken part in national trial of IPs and can share knowledge of this from a service users perspective
- Involvement in Podcasts, webinars and filming, which are now being used as support material for others (HEE and ESFA)
- Good links into local ICS and looking at how this could work at a system level
- being seen as a Champion by the system/national ESFA in this very specialist area

- Demonstrable evidence of being able to provide and receive highly complex, sensitive or contentious information and support delivery of such information to a wide range of differing groups, often at a very senior level.
- Ongoing advice provided to ESFA/Dept of Education and other stakeholders in regard to the complexities of the maturity modelling and state of readiness to implement IPs

Reporting and management

The provider will:

- Provide monthly highlight reports to HEE and the ESFA, including highlights, risks and issues

Financial Envelope

The maximum financial envelope for the contract is £20,000, exclusive of VAT.

Contract

The Contract T&Cs are attached, with project deliverables expected by 31 March 2022.