T-LEVELS

ada National College for Digital Skills

T Level Digital Software Development at Ada FAQ

❓ What is a T Level?

The T Level is a 2-year, post-16 technical qualification that is equivalent to 3 A-Levels. It is a nationally recognised certificate.

Ada will offer the T level in Digital Software Development

- ***EQUIVALENT TO 3 A LEVELS***
- ***A 45-DAY INDUSTRY PLACEMENT***
- ***80% CLASSROOM, 20% WORK***

❓ Why choose a T Level in Digital Software Development?

Industry-designed curriculum: The curriculum was developed by the Department for Education (DfE) in partnership with employers, including top employers such as ARM, BBC, Cisco and CompTIA, to give students the knowledge and skills that businesses need. Employers provide input into the curriculum and are involved in student's academic journeys

Focus on practical skills: The course includes an industry placement, giving students real-world experience in a work environment.

Progression opportunities: Upon completion, students can progress to skilled employment, apprenticeships, higher technical qualifications, or university degrees.

Students can progress into roles such as:

- ***WEB DEVELOPER***
- ***WEB DESIGNER***
- ***SOFTWARE DEVELOPER***
- ***COMPUTER GAMES TESTER***
- ***COMPUTER GAMES DEVELOPER***
- ***E-LEARNING DEVELOPER***
- ***USER EXPERIENCE (UX) DESIGNER***

Why study a T Level in Digital Production, Design and Development at Ada?

👩‍🏫 **Specialised lectures** - Ada is the National College for Digital Skills, a specialised FE college where all our students study digital courses. Our teachers and lecturers all have experience from Industry which they bring into the classroom along with many guest lectures who are at the forefront of technology today.

🗣️**1:1 coaching -** All our students have the opportunity to to have a dedicated coach from the tech industry to help them build the professional skills and networks they will need to succeed in a career in technology**.**

🏢**Workplace visits and Industry Projects -** We regularly take our students to tech compared so they get the experience they need to go on to great careers. We also bring industry into the college to run challenges / hackathons to solve a problem that they set students, which bring real world learning to the classroom and allow our students to practise their work based skills throughout their Sixth Form experience.

📈**Excellent track record:** Ada has a excellent reputation, having achieved the best Computer Science results in the UK for the past 4 consecutive years in our London Sixth form. We are leaders in Digital Skills education and now want to expand this opportunity in Manchester. We have been rated Ofsted Good with Outstanding Behaviour and Attitudes and Personal Development in 2023 (and 2018)

🤝**Strong industry partnerships:** Ada has well-developed industry partnerships in the Manchester region, providing students with valuable networking opportunities.

💁**Supportive environment:** Ada offers a supportive learning environment with a focus on inclusion, helping students to thrive.

💻**Additional perks:** Ada also provides students with a free laptop, travel bursaries, extracurricular clubs, industry visits and projects, and a vibrant alumni community and events.

What are the entry requirements?

The minimum entry requirements for Ada's Sixth Form are:

GCSE average grade score of 5 with 5s in English, Maths and and a 6 in Computer Science GCSE

What will I learn on the course?

Students on the Digital Software Development T Level at Ada will learn:

Core component: This covers the fundamental concepts, theory and skills of the industry. It includes

- Problem-solving
- Programming (full-stack development)
- Legislation and regulatory requirements
- Business context (including UX/UI)
- Data (including Database Development)
- Digital environments (including Networking)
- Cybersecurity

- Practical Hands-on Project Management and Software Development - Employer Set Project (ESP)

Occupational specialist component: This focuses on the specific knowledge, skills, and behaviors required for a role in Digital Software Development. This includes:

- Introduction to programming
- Data
- Emerging issues and impact of digital
- Digital environments

Industry placement: This is a minimum of 315 hours (45 days) spent in a real work environment, which can include taster days.

📢 **And additionally at Ada:**

- Industry Certification Cisco Networking Academy Courses
- Ada Skills Development Programme with Professional Communication Skills Training

📝**Assessment of T levels**

- **Core Component:** This assessed by two externally set Core examinations (33.3% each) and an Employer Set Project (33.3%) **Graded:** A*-E
- **Occupational Specialist Component:** This is assessed by an extended design, development and implementation project. **Graded :** Pass, Merit, Distinction

Awarding: Students who meet the required elements of their T Level will be awarded an overall grade, in the form of a Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction*. More info here

Where can I find more information about T Levels?

- T Level Digital Production Design and Development website
  https://www.tlevels.gov.uk/students/subjects/digital-production-design-development
- T Level Parents and Carers website
  https://www.tlevels.gov.uk/students/parents
- T Level success stories & Hear from T Level Student Ambassadors:
  https://www.tlevels.gov.uk/students/student-stories
- T Level DfE YouTube channel
  https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6gGtLyXoeq-rt4HRUDy_MY77BEH7r9Rc

When can I apply to Ada's T level in Digital Production Design and Development ?

Applications for the September 2025 intake are open now! Apply here
Contact us to meet the team, chat with learners, get a tour of the campus and learn more about the T Level curriculum.

MCRSixthformadmissions@ada.ac.uk
www.ada.ac.uk
@adacollege
16 Blossom St, Ancoats, Manchester M4 5AF