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# Engineering and Manufacturing T Levels: An Enginuity Report

T Levels results reveal a change in attitudes towards vocational education



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## Introduction

On 15 August 2024, the first students to study Engineering and Manufacturing T Levels in England received their results. As these two-year technical qualifications, designed to give students the skills that industry needs, are awarded; new research conducted by Enginuity, the charity dedicated to finding new ways to close skills gaps in UK engineering and manufacturing, reveals a change in attitudes towards technical and vocational qualifications like T Levels.



## Vocational routes gaining traction

**Given the expense of university, how interested, if at all, are you in other more vocational routes for your children to enter their chosen career?**

**89%**

of parents surveyed have said they would be interested in more vocational routes for their children to enter in their chosen career instead of university.

**How much do you agree or disagree with this statement?**

"In certain technology careers, hands-on experience is now more valuable than just academic qualifications."

This question is for parents with children aged 11-18.

**89%**

of parents surveyed agreed that hands on experience is more important than purely academic qualifications in certain technology based careers. Those aged between 45-54 said that hands on experience in technology based careers is more important with **91%** choosing to agree.

**Considering the cost of university, how interested are you in alternative vocational paths for your future career? This question is for those aged 11-18.**

**82%**

of people surveyed would be interested in more vocational routes to enter their chosen career, **33%** of those answered very interested.



## Apprenticeships: growing interest among young people and parents

**Given the expense of university, how interested, if at all, would you be in knowing more about apprenticeships that could help your children to 'earn while they learn' and still enter their chosen career?**

# 93%

of parents surveyed were more interested in finding out more about apprenticeships that could help them 'earn while they learn' and still enter their chosen career. The age most interested in apprenticeships to help them earn while they learn were the parents of 15 year olds with **97%** saying that they would be interested.

**Given the cost of university, to what extent, if at all, would you consider apprenticeships over a conventional university degree? This question is for those aged 11-18.**

# 86%

of children aged 11-18 would consider an apprenticeship over a conventional university degree. With the highest amount (**93%**) children in Manchester were the most likely to consider an apprenticeship.

**Given the expense of university, would you encourage your children to consider apprenticeships over a conventional university degree?**

# 67%

of all parents surveyed would encourage their children to consider an apprenticeship over a conventional university degree.

# 76%

of parents in Manchester are the most likely to encourage their children to consider an apprenticeship.

# 74%

of parents in London who say they would encourage their children to consider an apprenticeship.

## Improved awareness of vocational routes is key

### To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

Responses are from students aged 11-18.

# 66%

said their school provides information on both university and vocational paths to help them understand all options after graduation.

# 61%

noticed that their school discusses a wider range of career options, including vocational paths, and invites speakers to talk about vocational careers.



## Now is the time to capitalise on changing attitudes

Enginuity is a charity dedicated to finding new ways to close skills gaps in UK engineering and manufacturing. By doing this we want to create a more productive sector where employers have the right skills at the right time to embrace advanced manufacturing and lead the net-zero transition.

More young people choosing vocational routes into engineering and manufacturing can play a key role in achieving this, but only if we act now to capitalise on the growing interest in these pathways.



**That is why we are actively engaging in the following activities:**



Providing policy recommendations so that technical and vocational education is better able to keep up with the pace of change. We work with employers, industry bodies and the government so that policy discussions consider the skills that are increasingly in demand.



Promoting the benefits of engaging with apprenticeships to UK engineering and manufacturing employers and T Levels to employers in England. Increased interest in vocational routes won't deliver a skilled workforce unless employers offer apprenticeships, or the work placements required for T Levels.



**Engaging with the technical and vocational education system to ensure it is fit for purpose.**

At Enginuity, we develop and maintain national occupational standards, occupational standards, apprenticeship standards or frameworks to meet industry needs. [EAL](#) is the Enginuity Group's specialist awarding and end-point assessment organisation. In England, it offers end-point assessment against a broad range of apprenticeship standards in engineering and manufacturing, and related industries, and is a national delivery partner for Engineering & Manufacturing and Construction & Building Services Engineering T Levels. In Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland it offers a comprehensive range of qualifications that support apprenticeship frameworks and skills development needs across the engineering and manufacturing sector, and related industries.



## About Enginuity

Enginuity is a charity dedicated to helping employers find new ways to close the skills gap.

We combine a unique approach to sector data with a deep understanding of skills challenges to help employers ensure the sector has a highly skilled, globally competitive workforce now and in the future.

[Enginuity.org](https://www.Enginuity.org)