



INFORMATION PACK

NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION FOR SENIOR LEADERSHIP (NPQSL)

2013-2014

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National Professional Qualification for Senior Leadership (NPQSL)

Leading beyond a team

The National Professional Qualification for Senior Leaders (NPQSL) is a new qualification that provides national recognition of your leadership development and professional achievement as a senior leader.

Who is NPQSL for?

NPQSL is aimed at experienced team leaders with wider responsibilities traditionally associated with senior leadership roles.

It is suitable for:

- Deputy or assistant heads
- Experienced senior leaders who wish to further their knowledge and skills
- Experienced middle leaders who are ambitious for and seeking promotion to a senior leadership role
- Specialist Leader of Education (SLE)
- Senior leaders in a federation with responsibility areas across several schools
- Someone who has responsibility for supporting other schools
- Senior leaders working in schools and academies who are not qualified teachers (for example bursars, HR officers)

What is the NPQSL programme?

The qualification is part of the National College's new modular curriculum, which offers more flexible development opportunities to support leaders at every stage of their career. The curriculum has five levels, with each level offering a choice of modules that can be combined to pursue a nationally recognised qualification or studied alone. Levels one to three are currently available. NPQSL sits at level two of the modular curriculum. It is designed to support participants in becoming highly effective senior leaders with the skills, confidence and knowledge to contribute to the strategic development of the school or organisation as part of the senior leadership team. To achieve the qualification, participants will need to complete two Essential modules ("Closing the gap" and "Succeeding in senior leadership") and two Elective modules chosen from a wide range of options.

Included in the cost of the programme will be:

- Online materials for the two Essential modules and two Elective modules
- One face to face day for each module
- Online discussions and support
- Peer group meetings
- Support sessions from your mentor
- A 360 degree diagnostic

What modules are available as part of the NPQSL qualification?

The modules provide access to a wide set of high quality leadership resources to challenge and support participants at senior leadership level.

All modules reflect the recent and significant changes in schools and national policy.

As a national qualification, NPQSL may be used to contribute towards Master's Level Study at a number of universities across the country.

	Closing the Gap
	Succeeding in Senior Leadership
Elective Modules	Improving the quality of teaching Research and development in teaching
	Effective whole school management School self-evaluation
	Leading professional development
	Leading change for improvement Leading in a diverse system
	Effective partnership working

The modules for the Middle Leadership pathway can also be grouped within the three key strands of the modular curriculum:

Educational Excellence
 Operational Management
 Strategic Leadership

From September 2013 you may choose to study individual Elective modules to improve your skills and knowledge in a particular area without undertaking the full qualification. These modules can be “banked” for a period of time until you wish to undertake the full qualification. Essential modules are only available as part of the full NPQSL qualification.

Each module is made up of:

- One face to face professional development day
- Online learning with peers through webexes and online discussions
- Individual online learning
- Development work for the final assessed school improvement project

Each module can be completed in approximately 40 hours although you can spend longer using the online materials for your own learning if you so wish.

How is the programme assessed?

Although individual modules are not assessed, there will be the requirement of two extended school improvement tasks that relates to your leadership role and to your school’s improvement priorities. These extended school improvement tasks will need to draw on learning from the modules. Task One should be undertaken over one term and relates to the ‘Closing the Gap’ module. Task Two should be undertaken over two terms and enable participants to show evidence of the impact of their leadership. Participants’ sponsors will also be required to verify their tasks.

The role of the sponsor

- Each participant will have a sponsor who will verify their work and the evidence provided in their submission
- The headteacher will need to agree to the sponsor
- The sponsor is required to complete a form to verify that the evidence presented is accurate and to provide further testimony of how the participant has demonstrated evidence of competence as a middle leader in undertaking the task

The sponsor should be a senior leader (the participant's line manager or a leader of equivalent seniority) who is in a position to know the work they have done well, has a good knowledge of how they lead their team and who is able to assess their achievements and the impact of their leadership

How long does it take?

The qualification can take between 6 and 18 months to complete with each module requiring between 40 and 50 hours of learning. The majority of senior leaders are likely to spend 12 months completing the programme.

Are places limited?

There is no limit on the number of candidates who can participate in the programme but there are a limited number of scholarships available each year.

How much does NPQSL cost?

The NPQSL qualification is available at a cost of £900. This is below the National College recommended retail price of £1,400.

Is funding available?

To help with the costs of the programme, the National College are offering a range of scholarships. The likelihood is that scholarships for NPQSL will be awarded on a "first come first served basis" and participants will be able to indicate that they require a scholarship when they register for the programme. Leadership East have been allocated 80 scholarships this year with a new allocation in the next financial year.

There are two types of scholarships available to participants from Maintained schools.

(Maintained schools include community schools and colleges, foundation schools and colleges, voluntary-aided schools and colleges, voluntary-controlled schools and colleges and local authority nursery schools, non-maintained special schools, pupil referral units, secure units, academies, free schools and advisers/consultants employed by local authorities or diocesan authorities)

1. Small Schools

For participants from schools with a hundred pupils or less on roll at the last January return, full scholarships are available

2. Part scholarship

For participants from Maintained schools with more than 100 pupils on roll part scholarships of £210 are available

Non-maintained/independent school or not employed in a school

No scholarships available.

Exemptions

Some participants applying to join the NPQSL programme may have already completed the National College Leadership Pathways programme. If a participant has successfully completed Leadership Pathways, he or she will be entitled to an exemption of one Elective module at Level 2. In practice this will mean the participant will only need to complete the 2 Essential modules and 1 Elective module in order to move forward to assessment. However, since the participant will have access to the second Elective module, we regret there can be no reduction in cost if an exemption is claimed.

Name of Headteacher:	
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I recommend this applicant because:
(to be completed by the Headteacher)

Signed by Headteacher:
Date:

I agree to pay on invoice at the beginning of the course £900 (£750 if a SET Member) **

Signed (Headteacher)	
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Date:	
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**** I understand if the applicant secures a scholarship (£210) the price will be reduced to £690 (£540 if a SET Member)
(scholarship - maintained schools only)**