

# Key facts:

## National Professional Qualification for Senior Leadership

[www.education.gov.uk/nationalcollege/NPQSL](http://www.education.gov.uk/nationalcollege/NPQSL)



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

1. NPQSL is for those individuals who not only have responsibility for leading a team, but are also involved in leading a range of issues that affect the whole school or organisation. It's aimed at senior leaders, including experienced middle leaders, deputy heads, SENCOs and advanced skills teachers and other senior staff looking for further professional development but not aspiring to headship at this stage in their career.
2. The qualification will support you in becoming a highly effective senior leader with the skills, confidence and knowledge to contribute to the strategic development of your school or organisation as part of the senior leadership team.
3. To achieve the NPQSL qualification you'll need to successfully complete two essential modules and two further elective modules, which you are free to choose from a wide range of options.

### Essential modules\*

- Closing the gap
- Succeeding in senior leadership

\*titles subject to change

### Sample 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

4. Each module requires up to 50 hours of blended learning. This typically consists of workplace learning, face-to-face activity, including peer and facilitated learning, reading, reflection and online learning.
5. NPQSL offers the same quality hallmarks that you'd expect of any National College leadership development programme:
  - high quality learning materials, with a strong focus on current research and outstanding practice
  - opportunities to think about the implications for your own leadership through discussion and debate with peers, a coach and your line manager
  - assessment focusing on tasks linked to school improvement activities undertaken in the workplace – delivering real benefits for you and your school or organisation
  - the assurance of a qualification assessed and awarded by the National College
  - opportunities, offered by a number of our licensees, to use your qualification to contribute towards a Master's degree

**For further details, including information about scholarships, please visit our [website](#).**

Not a member of the National College? Register today for regular email updates, including news of activity in your region. Visit [www.nationalcollege.org.uk/membership](http://www.nationalcollege.org.uk/membership).

# National qualifications and more flexible opportunities for professional development

The National Professional Qualification for Senior Leadership is one of three new national qualifications offered by the National College.

They're part of a modular curriculum which offers 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 may be combined to pursue a nationally recognised qualification or studied alone.

Level	Qualification	Educational excellence modules	Operational management modules	Strategic leadership modules
Level 5 Leading beyond an organisation		Modules for these levels are currently being developed.		
Level 4 Leading an organisation				
Level 3 Aspiring to lead an organisation	<b>National Professional Qualification for Headship</b>  3 essential and 2 elective modules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— <b>Leading and improving teaching</b></li> <li>— Curriculum development</li> <li>— Leading inclusion: achievement for all</li> <li>— Closing the Gap</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— <b>Leading an effective school</b></li> <li>— Using data and evidence to improve performance</li> <li>— Leading staff and effective teams</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— <b>Succeeding in headship</b></li> <li>— Leading change for improvement</li> <li>— Leading in diverse contexts</li> <li>— School improvement through effective partnerships</li> <li>— Free school leadership:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relationships and reputation</li> <li>• Freedoms and constraints</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Level 2 Leading across an organisation	<b>National Professional Qualification for Senior Leadership</b>  2 essential and 2 elective modules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— <b>Closing the gap</b></li> <li>— Improving the quality of teaching</li> <li>— Research and development in teaching</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Effective whole school management</li> <li>— School self-evaluation</li> <li>— Leading professional development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— <b>Succeeding in senior leadership</b></li> <li>— Leading change for improvement</li> <li>— Leading in a diverse system</li> <li>— Effective partnership working</li> </ul>
Level 1 Leading a team	<b>National Professional Qualification for Middle Leadership</b>  2 essential and 1 elective modules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— <b>Leading teaching</b></li> <li>— Leading inclusion: achievement for all</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— <b>Managing systems and processes</b></li> <li>— Leading an effective team</li> <li>— Leading and developing staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Succeeding in middle leadership</li> <li>— Leading change for improvement</li> <li>— Leading in a diverse system</li> </ul>



**Key**  
Essential modules are highlighted in **bold**