

Funding for National Professional Qualifications (NPQs) - NPQ scholarships

The DfE have announced that up to £10 million of the Teaching and Leadership Innovation Fund (TLIF) will be set aside to support teachers and leaders in challenging areas to access the reformed NPQs. The conditions for the funding are as follows:-

- Funding will cover the full participant costs of the course(s);
- Funding will be for NPQs taken by teachers and leaders working in Opportunity Areas (OAs) and category 5 and 6 areas; and
- Funding will be paid to accredited NPQ providers (not to schools).

Learners First has applied as an accredited NPQ provider to access this scholarship funding via a funding contract with the DfE.

NPQ Participant Eligibility Criteria

Funding has been set aside to support teachers and leaders in Opportunity Areas (OAs) and Category 5 and 6 areas to undertake the reformed NPQ provision only.

To satisfy the eligibility criteria, participants must:

- be working in a school in an Opportunity Area (OA) or a Category 5 or 6 area,
- not already hold the NPQ for which they are applying, and
- have not have previously dropped out before completing the NPQ for which they are applying.

Where participants have started their NPQ in advance of these funding contracts being awarded, provided that they meet the criteria, they will be able to have their course costs refunded.

Funding Criteria in the event of over-subscription

The DfE are not at this stage setting a headcount limit on who can receive a scholarship, either per school or per NPQ provider. However, in the event that there is over-subscription for this funding, the DfE reserves its right to prioritise funding using the following criteria (in order of priority):

1. Participants working in Opportunity Areas;
2. Participants working in schools where more than 30% of pupils receive Free School Meals;
3. Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) teachers and leaders; and
4. Participants working in a school in an Opportunity Area, where the school is below the Key Stage 2 or Key Stage 4 floor standards.

*** Learners First reserves its right as a NPQ provider to only refund course costs where a scholarship payment has been awarded by the DfE.**

Opportunity Areas

The 12 Opportunity Areas are:-

Blackpool, Derby, Norwich, Oldham, Scarborough, West Somerset – announced in October 2016;

Bradford, Doncaster, Fenland and East Cambridgeshire, Hastings, Ipswich and Stoke-on-Trent – announced in January 2017.

Category 5 and 6 areas

Category 5 and 6 areas are those described in the 2016 White Paper as having the weakest performance and least capacity to improve.

Please refer to the [DFE website](#) for further details of the category 5 and 6 areas.