

REGISTER Now For Autumn 2025

# National Professional Qualifications (NPQs)

Autumn 2025 Cohort

(Register Your Interest Now and be alerted when the DfE Portal Opens- July 2025)

*Evidence informed, practical and network focused nationally recognised qualifications supporting teachers, leaders and associate professionals, to deliver school/setting improvement & improved outcomes for young people.*

Learners First is a successful delivery partner of the **University College London's (UCL)**, 'outstanding' **Institute of Education**. We are committed to delivering the highest quality professional development and networking opportunities for leaders, teachers and associate professional colleagues through the DfE's golden thread. There are NPQs for all...  
**Specialist NPQ** qualifications offer career routes for those colleagues who want to develop their expertise in specialist areas of teaching, practice and pastoral care.  
**Leadership NPQ** qualifications are aimed at school, early years and system leaders.

Free Online NPQ Information  
Briefing

[Register here](#)

If you have any questions, or want to find out more before registering/applying for an NPQ, please choose a date and time to suit you

*"I unexpectedly stepped in to the role of Acting Headship and without clear direction. Without my NPQ training, I would simply not have been in a position to apply for the permanent role. The course content is so clear, concise and relevant." N. Walker NPQH, Derbyshire 2024*

Specialist NPQs		Suitable for teachers and leaders currently or aspiring to specialise in a domain area of expertise. <i>Not suitable for ECTs.</i>
12 months duration plus assessment	<a href="#">NPQ Leading Teacher Development (NPQLTD)</a>	learn how to become a <b>teacher educator</b> to <b>successfully support teachers in your area of responsibility or whole school</b> , to expand their skills (suitable also for mentors)
	<a href="#">NPQ Leading Teaching (NPQLT)</a>	learn how to <b>develop and lead subject curriculum, pedagogy and assessment</b> within a <b>subject, year group or phase</b>
	<a href="#">NPQ Leading Literacy (NPQLL)</a>	learn how to <b>effectively plan for, teach and promote literacy</b> across the whole school, year group, key stage or phase. Endorsed by the DfE English Hub.
	<a href="#">NPQ Leading Behaviour &amp; Culture (NPQLBC)</a>	learn how to <b>create a culture of good behaviour and high expectations</b> in which staff and pupils can thrive (also available to colleagues without QTS)

Leadership NPQs		Suitable for teachers, current or aspiring school/trust leaders who are or aspire to operate at a level commensurate with the NPQ standard. NB, NPQSEND can be accessed by participants without Qualified Teacher Status
18 months duration plus assessment	<a href="#">NPQ Early Years Leadership (NPQEYL)</a>	develop expertise in <b>leading high-quality early years education and care</b> , as well as <b>effective staff and organisational management</b> (suitable for leaders of PVI's, Childminders, and school EYFS leaders)
	<a href="#">NPQ Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (NPQSENCO)</a>	Develop expertise in leading SEND across your organisation. <b>This is the mandatory qualification for all named or aspiring SENDCOs who do not hold the NASEND</b> (pre 2024). All SENCOs without NASEND must register & complete the NPQSEND within three years of taking up role. Suitable for Assistant SENCOs & those without QTS.
	<a href="#">NPQ Senior Leadership (NPQSL)</a>	develop your <b>leadership knowledge and expertise in different domain</b> areas to improve outcomes for teachers, the wider workforce and pupils across your school
	<a href="#">NPQ Headship (NPQH)</a>	develop the knowledge that underpins <b>expert school leadership</b> , including <b>working in partnership</b> and <b>organisational management</b> and apply it to become an outstanding headteacher
	<a href="#">NPQ Executive Leadership (NPQEL)</a>	develop the expertise you need to become an <b>outstanding executive leader, leading sustainable change and improvement at scale</b> across a group of schools or MAT. NB this course is delivered directly by UCL for April 2025

See overleaf to Apply

## Funding & Costs

The DfE is currently reviewing the scholarship allocation and funding for 2025. For more information regarding eligibility and funding for your setting please visit the [DfE Funding Page](#) or contact us on [info@learnersfirst.org](mailto:info@learnersfirst.org)

As an illustration, the table below exemplifies the funding for April 2025. Please refer to UCL's website for more information

NPQ	Scholarship Funding Available	Qualifying Criteria	
NPQ Headship NPQ SEND	Yes - Fully Funded for all *	Participant must be employed in a state funded school or setting	
NPQ Executive Leadership NPQ Senior Leadership NPQ Early Years Leadership NPQ Leading Teaching NPQ Leading Teacher Development NPQ Leading Behaviour & Culture NPQ Leading Literacy	Yes – Conditions Apply	Participants must be employed in a state funded school or setting which is identified in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the 50% of schools with the highest proportion of students who attract pupil premium funding</li> <li>16 to 19 educational settings identified as having high disadvantage</li> <li>Highly disadvantaged early years settings (NPQEYL only)</li> </ul>	For non-eligible settings or those without a scholarship, you are still able to study an NPQ. Please see the <a href="#">UCL Website</a> for course costs as per DfE Guidelines
*NB: The DfE have agreed a limited number of scholarship funded places nationally so early registration is ESSENTIAL to secure a scholarship			

## NPQ Course Structure & Time Commitment

Our NPQs are a blend of flexible, high quality online learning, coaching, virtual and face to face workshops. During the course you will complete an **unassessed implementation project** of your choice to link NPQ theory directly to your own work in your own school/setting.

	Duration	Blended Structure (Face to face sessions are based in South Yorkshire)	Summative Assessment
<b>All leadership NPQs</b>	18 months plus 8-day window for final assessment	3 x 1 hr Online Self Audits (start of each module) 2 x 5 hrs Induction /Consolidation Conference (start and end of course) 3 x 5hrs Face to Face Days (Guest speakers) 4 x 3hrs Peer Learning Groups (face to face) 4 x 1 hr Line Manager/Coach Check ins (in school/setting) 3 x 1 hr Online discussion forum 39 hrs self-study online at a time to suit you (Total Study Time=75 hrs over 18 months)	1,500-2,500 worded response to a scenario based case study. Open book online submission. 8-day window
<b>All Specialist NPQs</b>	12 months plus 8-day window for final assessment	3 x 1 hr Online Self Audit (start of each module) 1 x 4/5hrs Induction Conference (face to face or online) 27 hrs Self Directed Learning at a time to suit you 1 x 3 hrs Online Learning Community Discussion 3 x 3/4 hrs Peer Learning Group (Face to face) 3 x 1hr Line Manager/Coach Check In (in school/setting) (Total Study Time=55 hrs over 12 months)	

## How to Register, Apply or Find Out More...

- Step 1** Register your Interest. Complete your **Expression of Interest** [here with UCL](#) . Please mark your **Delivery Partner** as **Learners First Schools Partnership**
- Step 2** Apply for your Place with the **DfE** [here](#) (opens July 2025) stating your Lead Provider as **University College London (UCL)** *Early registration advised for funded place*
- Step 3** Complete & Return Your **Application Form** sent to you by UCL stating **Learners First Schools Partnership** as your delivery partner. You will need to nominate a school/setting based sponsor for your NPQ (for example a line manager or key colleague)
- Step 4** **Learners First Schools Partnership** as your delivery partner will onboard you to start the course in the Autumn Term 2025

### Free Online NPQ Information Briefing

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