

Inspiring leaders to
improve children's lives



National College
for School Leadership

Schools and academies

National Professional Qualification for Headship

Prospectus

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National Professional Qualification for Headship

No single individual is more critical to the success of a school than its headteacher. From the highest level policy decisions to dealing with the nitty gritty, there is little that doesn't land on the headteacher's desk.

If you're a passionate, highly motivated senior school leader who is 100 per cent focused on becoming a headteacher, the National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH) will help you to step up to the role and set you apart as an outstanding leader.

The new NPQH

NPQH has evolved over time to keep pace with the changing nature of school leadership. It's delivered thousands of highly skilled individuals ready to take on this important role.

Following a significant review, NPQH has been redesigned. The new qualification not only focuses on the key skills needed for headship, but also meets the highest standards for leadership development anywhere in the world. Those who graduate will stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the very best leaders in business and other sectors.

It's a high bar that will challenge and develop talented leaders from all backgrounds who can deliver educational excellence in a self-improving system, and high quality outcomes for pupils and students.

In a recent survey, participants told us:

"All of the things I learned on NPQH are feeding into the school. Whether you are an academy, network school or teaching school, having that background knowledge is vital."

"One of the best professional development courses I've ever done, I'd advise anyone to do it."

Key features of the new programme

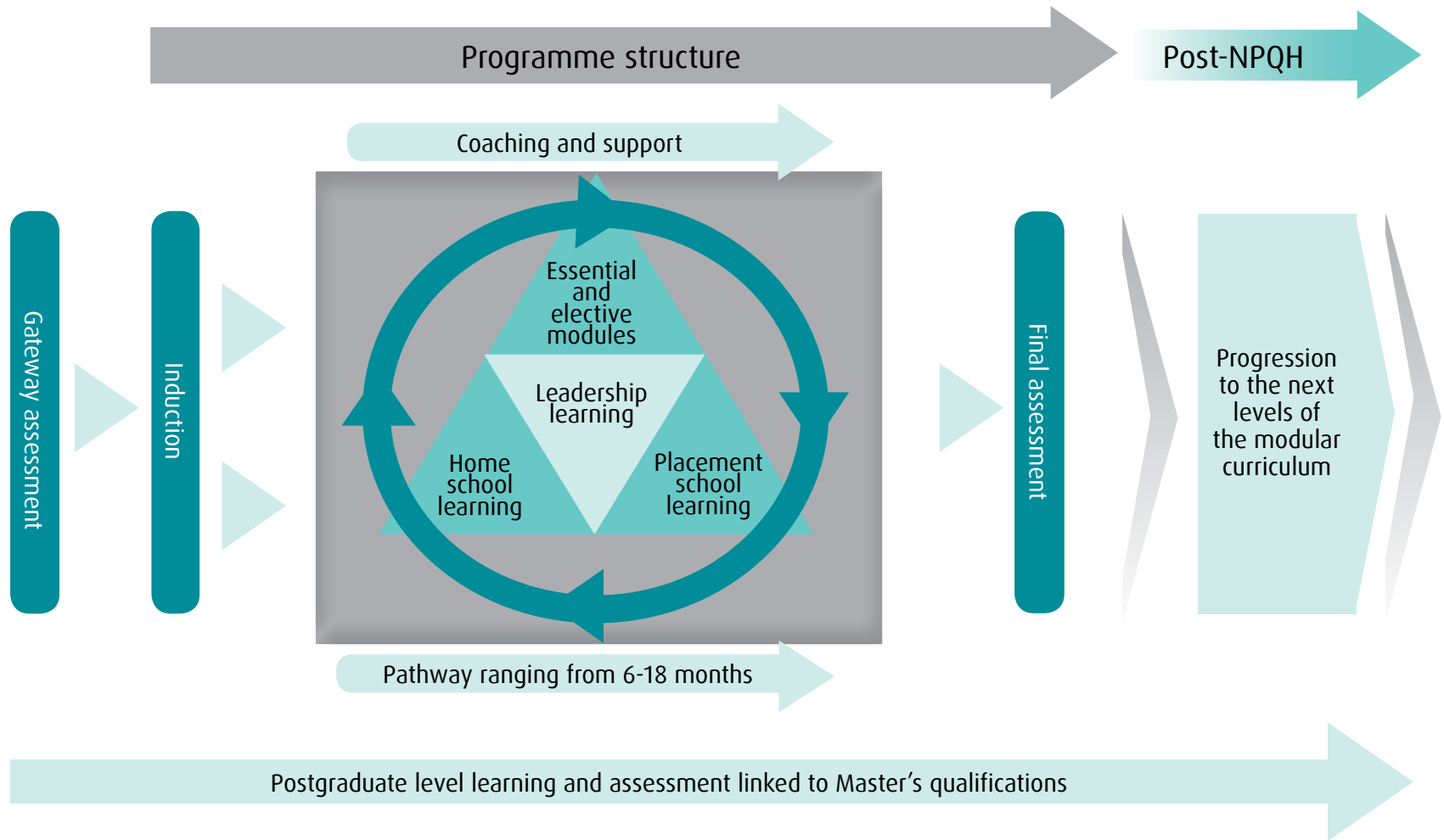
- Designed in collaboration with some of the country's leading headteachers and academics to give you the right balance between academic rigour and applied leadership.
- A higher bar on entry, with a challenging, one-day assessment event to ensure it's the right programme for you; if not, we'll give you detailed feedback to help you plan your next step.
- A more flexible, modular structure that combines core elements (three essential modules) with the freedom to specialise or develop your own professional areas of interest (two elective modules).
- Options to complete the qualification over 6-18 months, so that you can choose the pace that's right for you.
- A longer in-school placement lasting a minimum of nine days, combining a whole-school strategic leadership task with the opportunity to work alongside an experienced headteacher in a different context.
- Access to peer learning and optional coaching to extend and maximise your learning throughout the programme.
- A credible, valid and reliable final assessment report to support governing body interview panels and give you the competitive edge when applying for headships.
- Delivered at Master's level.

"Following NPQH, his skills in working and managing other staff have gone through the roof..."

"Rather than just looking at what's happening in the here and now, he's looking at things from a much more strategic point of view"

NPQH graduate line manager

NPQH model



Costs

Scholarships are available to applicants who successfully complete both stages of the entry assessment for NPQH. To find out if you are eligible, visit www.education.gov.uk/nationalcollege/npqh.

How to apply

Stage one: online application form

You will be required to complete an online application form matching your skills and experience against the competencies within the NPQH assessment framework. Your sponsor (usually your line manager) will need to endorse your application form to confirm your suitability and readiness for headship and NPQH.

Stage two: one-day gateway assessment

If your application form provides sufficient evidence that you meet the competency requirements for NPQH, you will be invited to attend the second stage of the application process: a one-day assessment event. On successful completion of stage two, you will be able to approach a number of National College approved licence providers to register to undertake the NPQH programme.

A list of licensees can be found at www.education.gov.uk/nationalcollege/college-licensees.

Find out more

Take a look at our website for the most up-to-date information about the current application round along with guidance and helpful tips on completing your application. www.education.gov.uk/nationalcollege/npqh

If you have a specific question about the programme, email us at newnpqh@nationalcollege.org.uk.

The National College's modular curriculum

NPQH is one of a range of qualifications that make up the National College's new modular curriculum. All offer a flexible combination of essential and elective modules, focusing on three broad leadership themes: educational excellence; operational management; and strategic leadership.

The curriculum supports leadership development across all leadership roles in schools, academies and children's centres, from leading your first team to leading beyond an organisation.

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The National College exists to develop and support great leaders of schools and children's centres – whatever their context or phase.

- Enabling leaders to work together to lead improvement
- Helping to identify and develop the next generation of leaders
- Improving the quality of leadership so that every child has the best opportunity to succeed

Membership of the National College gives access to unrivalled development and networking opportunities, professional support and leadership resources.

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**An executive agency of the
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We care about the environment

We are always looking for ways to minimise our environmental impact. We only print where necessary, which is why you will find most of our materials online. When we do print we use environmentally friendly paper.