

NPQ Funding Information

Funding Eligibility and FAQs

1st July 2021

Accredited NPQ provider



Department
for Education



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
EDUCATION OFFICE

FOUNDATION FOR
EDUCATIONAL
LEADERSHIP

NPQ FUNDING ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

As part of the government's long-term education recovery plan, £184 million of new funding for NPQs was announced on 2nd June 2021 to be spent over the course of this parliament

NPQ in Leading Teacher Development

Full scholarship funding, with no cost to the participant, for the NPQ in Leading Teacher Development is available to all teachers who meet the following criteria:

- Have, or are aspiring to have, responsibilities for leading the development of other teachers in their school, and
- Work in a state funded school in England.

NPQ in Leading Behaviour and Culture

Full scholarship funding, with no cost to the participant, for the NPQ in Leading Behaviour and Culture is available to all teachers who meet the following criteria:

- Have, or are aspiring to have, responsibilities for leading behaviour and/or supporting pupil wellbeing in their school, and
- Work in a state funded school in England that is within the [top 30th percentile](#) in relation to pupils on Pupil Premium as of the end of the previous academic year.

NPQ in Leading Teaching

Full scholarship funding, with no cost to the participant, for the NPQ in Leading Teaching is available to all teachers who meet the following criteria:

- Have, or are aspiring to have, responsibilities for leading teaching in a subject, year group, key stage, or phase, and
- Work in a state funded school in England that is within the [top 30th percentile](#) in relation to pupils on Pupil Premium as of the end of the previous academic year.

NPQ in Senior Leadership

Full scholarship funding, with no cost to the participant, for the NPQ in Senior Leadership is available to those who meet the following criteria:

- Are, or are aspiring to be, a senior leader with cross-school responsibilities, and
- Work in a state funded school in England that is within the [top 30th percentile](#) in relation to pupils on Pupil Premium as of the end of the previous academic year.

NPQ in Headship

Full scholarship funding, with no cost to the participant, for the NPQ in Headship is available for those who meet the following criteria:

- Are, or are aspiring to be, a headteacher or head of school with responsibility for leading a school, and

- Work in a state funded school in England that is within the [top 30th percentile](#) in relation to pupils on Pupil Premium as of the end of the previous academic year.

OR

- Are a headteacher or head of school with responsibility for leading a school, and
- Are in the first 2 academic years of headship, and
- Work in a state funded school in England.

Additional support offer for the NPQ in Headship

In addition to the reformed suite of NPQs, the department is introducing an additional support offer for new headteachers from autumn 2021. This is a targeted support package for teachers new to the role of headship.

You are eligible for this targeted support package if you meet the following criteria:

- are in your first 24 months of headship
- work in a state-funded school in England upon starting the training
- have either completed an NPQH before taking up your first headship post or are currently taking the NPQH
- have not withdrawn from the additional support programme previously

NPQ in Executive Leadership

Full scholarship funding, with no cost to the participant, for the NPQ in Executive Leadership is available to those who meet the following criteria:

- Are, or are aspiring to be, an executive headteacher or have a school trust CEO role with responsibility for leading several schools, and
- Work in a state funded school in England that is within the [top 30th percentile](#) in relation to pupils on Pupil Premium as of the end of the previous academic year

FAQs

We appreciate that you may be anxious to clarify your funding eligibility as soon as possible to inform conversations at school and also decide whether to apply for an NPQ to support your professional development.

The questions and answers below may help you gain clarity.

Q1: How do I know if I work in a school that is within the top 30th percentile?

The Department for Education has published a full list of schools* that are eligible to apply to begin the NPQ in 2021-22 according to this criteria.

For your ease the list also shows which Church of England diocese each of these schools is within.

Q2: When can I access these qualifications?

NPQs in Leading Teaching, Leading Behaviour and Culture, Leading Teacher Development, Senior Leadership, Headship and Executive Leadership are available from November 2021.

Some Church of England NPQs will start as Cohort 1 in November 2021 and many more will begin in February 2022. There will be some NPQs beginning in November in every part of the country but your location will influence which courses are available to you at which start date.

A full list of courses starting in November 2021 and February 2021 will be available shortly. Please [sign up and register your interest](#) so that you we can provide you with further information as it becomes available.

Q3: If I am eligible for full funding on the NPQH or NPQLTD will I definitely get a place?

If you are eligible for full funding on one of these programmes according to the Department for Education's criteria you will need to follow the application process outlined above in order in order to confirm a place on a Church of England programme.

In the scenario where a course is oversubscribed, places will be offered to successful applicants in the order in which they applied.

Q4: If I have previously withdrawn from an NPQ will I still be eligible for Department for Education full funding?

If, for example, you are applying for the NPQH and you have previously withdrawn from an NPQH then you would not be eligible for full funding. The same would apply if you are applying for the NPQSL and have previously withdrawn from an NPQSL, or you are applying for the NPQEL and have previously withdrawn from an NPQEL

Q5: If I am not eligible for full funding from the Department for Education who will pay for my course?

If you are not eligible for full funding then your first step should be to speak to your school about the possibility of your school or MAT supporting your professional development by funding your course. There may be other sources of financial support available to you locally which you should explore with your headteacher and possibly your diocese.

Q6: If I work overseas in an international school am I eligible for full funding from the Department for Education?

No. At this time this funding is only for teachers working in state- funded schools in England.

Q7: Are there any alternative bursaries available for schools leaders who are not eligible for the Department for Education funding?

No. At this time there are no other bursaries being offered nationally. There may however, be local sources of funding that you could pursue in discussion with your headteacher and/ or diocese.

Funding Eligibility: FAQ**Q8: Is there a cap on the number of scholarship funded places a single school can access?**

Whilst there is no cap on the number of scholarship-funded places per school, individual participants must meet the criteria set out on gov.uk to access the scholarship funding. The criteria are available here.

Q9: Is there an overall cap on the scholarship pot for 21/22?

As part of the government's long-term education recovery plan, £184 million of new funding for NPQs was announced on 2 June. Combined with existing funding already committed to the programme, this will provide 150,000 scholarship-funded NPQ places over the course of the 21/22 academic year and the next three years.

Each lead provider has a recruitment target for 21/22. Lead Providers should work with their delivery partners to manage this.

We will be monitoring recruitment across all providers this year. Lead providers should contact the Department to discuss recruitment if necessary.

Q10: Are the scholarship criteria that have been announced for NPQ programmes starting in 21/22 only?

Scholarships for all NPQs are available for teachers in schools with the highest proportion of pupils on pupil premium. In addition, teachers in state-funded schools will be able to access scholarships for the NPQ LTD, and new head teachers (in the first 24 months of headship) in state-funded schools can access funding for the NPQH and additional support offer for new head teachers.

Scholarships are also planned from AY22/23 onwards, including for the two new NPQs in Literacy and Early Years teaching. Information on targeting from AY22/23 will be released in due course.

Q11: How does the PP scholarship criterion work for teachers and leaders working in trust roles across multiple schools?

To be eligible for a scholarship-funded NPQ in Executive Leadership, teachers must either work in a state-funded school in England that is within the top 30th percentile in relation to pupils on pupil premium, or work in a trust that includes at least one school which meets this pupil premium requirement.

With regards to eligibility for scholarship funding for all other NPQs, teachers who work across multiple schools or church diocese should discuss with their leadership team and provider whether they meet the eligibility for the PP30 scholarships. For example, if a participant works in a setting where their focus is on a school that does meet the high pupil premium criteria, it would be appropriate for them to apply for a scholarship. There is a duty for Lead Providers to verify that the participant has met the funding criteria.

Q11: How is scholarship eligibility determined for schools without PP data?

Our funding approach targets deprived areas, by focusing on the top 30th percentile of schools in relation to pupils on pupil premium. These schools will benefit most from this funding, not only because they face greater challenges around recruitment and retention, but also because disadvantaged pupils have been most severely affected by disruption resulting from the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The funding criteria are being kept under review and conversations are ongoing about the eligibility of institutions not in scope for pupil premium funding.

Q12: I teach in a post 16 institution, am I eligible for scholarship funding?

Independent or privately funded 16-19 institutions are not eligible to receive this funding. Similarly, the funding is not available for adult education institutions. Our funding approach targets deprived areas, by focusing on the top 30th percentile of schools in relation to pupils on pupil premium.

These schools will benefit most from this funding, not only because they face greater challenges around recruitment and retention, but also because disadvantaged pupils have been most severely affected by disruption resulting from the coronavirus COVID-19) pandemic. The funding criteria are being kept under review and conversations are ongoing about the eligibility of institutions not in scope for pupil premium funding, including other post-16 institutions.

Q13: Do candidates for NPQs have to have QTS?

While it is not a requirement that participants should have QTS status, providers should assess candidates' suitability for NPQ qualifications bearing in mind that content frameworks contain sections on teaching and learning. This would need to be considered in line with the context of the individual circumstances.

Participants must have a Teacher Reference Number in order to register for an NPQ programme. The NPQ Registration service has information on how to apply for a TRN if a participant doesn't already have one.

Q14: Will teachers and leaders who have previously undertaken an NPQ be eligible for the new suite?

The eligibility criteria for participants who have previously undertaken an NPQ (including those who have previously withdrawn from or failed an NPQ) is currently under review and more information will be available in due course.

Q15: I am unable to complete my NPQ on the legacy (2017) suite. Will I be eligible to take the same (or equivalent) qualification under the new suite?

We are working closely with providers of the legacy (2017) NPQ suite. Participants have until 31 August 2022 to complete their NPQ course. This includes submitting work for assessment and moderation. Participants on the legacy (2017) suite who are at risk of non-completion by August 2022 should contact their provider to discuss the support available to enable them to complete.

Q16: Can participants take multiple leadership NPQs under the new suite?

The new suite of NPQs is designed to provide training and support for teachers and leaders at all levels and through the entirety of a teacher's career. Teachers are permitted to take more than one leadership NPQ to support their career progression, for example if they move to a more senior role.

We would expect teachers to have successfully completed their NPQ before undertaking a further NPQ.

Q17: Can participants receive funding for multiple specialist NPQs under the new suite?

Teachers can take more than one specialist NPQ, for example if they move to a different role at the same level, but we would recommend that they review the frameworks to help inform their choice.

We would expect teachers to have the backing of their school leader(s) when applying for these qualifications.

Q18: Is there still a difference between state-funded and not state funded?

Providers should refer to Annex C of the Delivery Call-Off for further detail on schools eligible for DfE funding.



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For all other questions about funding, please contact npq@churchofengland.org or your local NPQ provider.

*subject to final confirmation.

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