

## NPQ funding and eligibility criteria

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

The DfE has announced the following criteria for accessing NPQ scholarships.

### 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.
- 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.
- Work in a state funded school in England that is within the top 30<sup>th</sup> 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.
- Work in a state funded school in England that is within the top 30<sup>th</sup> 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.
- Work in a state funded school in England that is within the top 30<sup>th</sup> 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.
- Work in a state funded school in England that is within the top 30<sup>th</sup> 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.
- Are in the first 2 academic years of headship.
- Work in a state funded school in England.

### **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.
- Work in a state funded school in England that is within the top 30<sup>th</sup> percentile in relation to pupils on Pupil Premium as of the end of the previous academic year.

### **Additional support offer for the National Professional Qualification in Headship**

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

New headteachers are eligible for this targeted support package if they meet all the following criteria:

- They are in their first 2 years of headship.
- They have either completed the reformed NPQH before taking up their first headship post or are currently taking the NPQH.
- They have not withdrawn from or failed the same programme previously.
- They are employed by a state funded school in England upon starting the training.

The offer provides structured, unassessed face-to-face support based on the best available evidence about what makes an effective headteacher. While the exact content of this support will depend on the provider chosen, activities could include a combination of group coaching, one-to-one support discussions and peer network support.

### **Frequently asked questions**

- The published list of schools eligible for scholarships is final. [The list can be downloaded here.](#)

- Schools without Pupil Premium data (new schools) are not eligible for scholarships.
- Current and prospective executive leaders working across multiple schools in a trust are eligible for an NPQEL scholarship if at least one of the schools in their trust meets the Pupil Premium criterion.
- There is no NPQ cap per school.
- Whilst there is an overall cap on the number of scholarships, the supply of funded places is very generous and expected to be able to meet demand.

### **How do I know if I work in a school that is within the top 30<sup>th</sup> percentile?**

The DfE will shortly be publishing a list of schools that are eligible on the NPQ gov.uk page to ensure it is clear who is eligible under these criteria.