



National Professional Qualification in Headship (NPQH)

Remote Worldwide Delivery for International Schools



NPQH AT A GLANCE

Course Duration: **18 months**

Online Events: **5 events**

Online Learning: **38 hours**

Coaching: **10 hours**

Total Learning Hours: **112 hours**

Final Assessment: **Case study scenario**

★ Awards **60 Master's Credits**



Accredited NPQ provider



About NPQH

The DfE-accredited NPQH delivers evidence-based headship training to those who are, or aspire to be, headteachers. This flexible part-time training fits around a teacher's timetable and is delivered through a combination of face-to-face events, online study, webinars and coaching. Completing NPQH is hugely beneficial for participants as well as their school and pupils.

We are proud to have delivered NPQs to thousands of International School participants across the globe. Find out about our Remote Online Delivery option on the last page.

Benefits for participants

- ✔ Portable qualification – valid and highly sought-after by UK schools and International Schools
- ✔ Focus on and develop the key skills needed for headship
- ✔ Time to reflect on leadership practice and to network with a wide range of school leaders
- ✔ Increased awareness and understanding of self and of the behaviours needed to lead a school

Benefits for schools

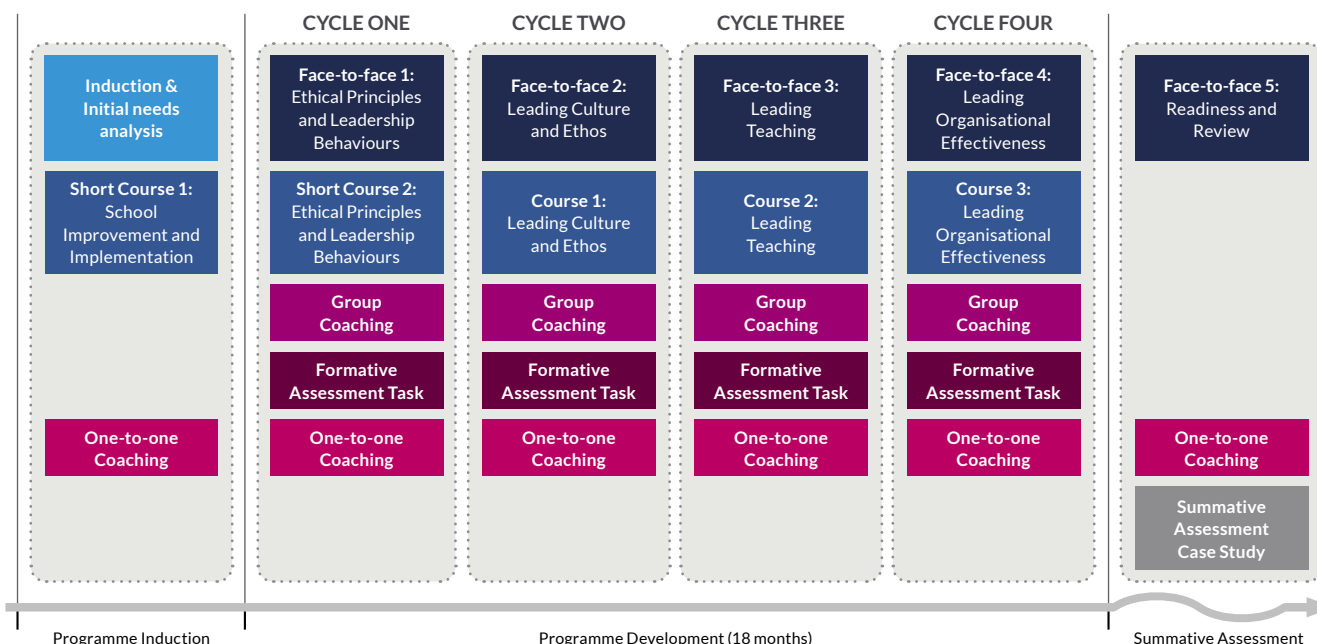
- ✔ Offering staff the chance to complete NPQs has been shown to improve teacher retention rates and is a great incentive for recruiting new teachers
- ✔ A professionally aware and informed leader who can make evidence-based decisions and approach new challenges in an effective and efficient manner
- ✔ The ability to delegate responsibility effectively, empowering staff to lead on whole-school improvement
- ✔ Support succession of school leaders and build a cohesive, impact-focused school leadership team

Qualification elements

INDUCTION STAGE	Induction (incl. Initial needs analysis: 1 hour)	6 hours	Total Guided Learning Hours: 112
DEVELOPMENT STAGE	Face-to-face events	30 hours	
	Online course study	38 hours	
	Formative assessment tasks	28 hours	
	Leadership performance coaching	10 hours	
SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT STAGE	Case study scenario	Max. 1500 words	

Qualification programme structure

The NPQH content is delivered across four development stage cycles that include face-to-face events, online study, a formative assessment task and leadership performance coaching. The context focus for each cycle aligns to each of the content areas identified by the DfE, and their sequencing across the delivery cycle has been carefully crafted to ensure depth of study and time for most effective reflection and review by each participant.



Induction

The induction stage includes insight into and preparation for qualification engagement and the *School improvement and implementation* short course. Participants will complete their initial needs analysis as part of this stage.

Induction and Initial needs analysis

Self assessment of skills, knowledge and understanding of 'learn that' and 'learn how to' statements derived from the DfE qualification frameworks and leadership behaviours. The outcomes of the analysis inform ongoing discussion and feedback throughout the programme.

Face-to-face content outline

The NPQH programme includes five face-to-face events spread across the 18-month duration of the qualification. Face-to-face events are delivered remotely for participants from International Schools.

Each event precedes online course study and will introduce the climate and context for online study. The five event days consist of tailored practice tasks, group networking and self-managed learning interaction supporting powerful dialogue and leadership development.

Face-to-face events

- **Day 1:** Ethical Principles and Leadership Behaviours
- **Day 2:** Leading Culture and Ethos
- **Day 3:** Leading Teaching
- **Day 4:** Leading Organisational Effectiveness
- **Day 5:** Readiness and Review

Online course content outline

NPQH participants will undertake two short courses and three full courses.

As part of online course engagement compliance, participants will be required to select and complete three practice activities and undertake one formative assessment task.

Each full course includes three study modules that are to be completed within a recommended time frame of 10 hours. Each short course is composed of 4 hours of study.

Short courses

1. **School Improvement and Implementation**
2. **Ethical Principles and Leadership Behaviours**

Full courses

1. **Leading Culture and Ethos**
 - Module 1: School culture
 - Module 2: Behaviour
 - Module 3: Professional development
2. **Leading Teaching**
 - Module 1: Teaching
 - Module 2: Curriculum and assessment
 - Module 3: Additional and SEN/disabilities
3. **Leading Organisational Effectiveness**
 - Module 1: Organisational management
 - Module 2: Working in partnership
 - Module 3: Governance and accountability

Formative assessment tasks

The formative assessment tasks are in-school practice-led activities that participants choose to complete following an online course. There are four formative assessment tasks for NPQH.

Leadership performance coaching

NPQH participants will engage with ten hours of coaching.

Group coaching

- Four hours (one hour following each online course)

One-to-one coaching

- Six hours (one hour during the induction stage and then one hour following the completion of each formative assessment task, plus an impact review prior to the summative assessment stage)

Assessment

Qualification elements that count towards final assessment

To pass an NPQ, the following criteria need to be met:

- Participants must engage in 90% of the course elements determined by the provider.
- Participants must submit and pass one summative assessment that takes the form of a case study. Participants have an eight-day window to provide a written response of a maximum 1500 words and submit this by midnight on the designated eighth day.

What are the course elements I must engage with?

1. Leadership Development Record (LDR) review
2. Face-to-face events
3. Online practice activities
4. Formative assessment tasks
5. Coaching

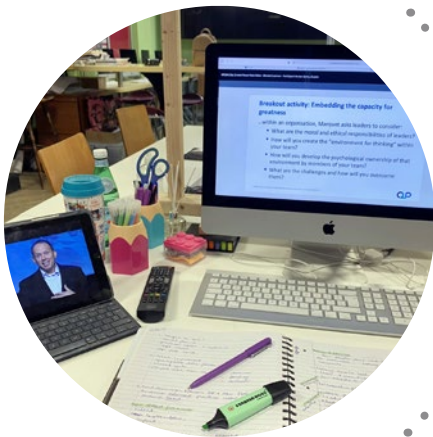
Course intakes

There are two intakes per year, one beginning in autumn and one in spring. Please see our website for application deadlines and delivery schedules.

Remotely delivered CPD

Before Covid, we were able to offer both Face-to-Face and Remote Online Delivery models, however since the introduction of travel restrictions, the majority of our International School NPQ participants now complete the qualifications through the Remote Online Delivery model. We hope to resume working with our International School partners to offer a choice of NPQ delivery models in the near future. Please contact us to find out more.

NPQs are remotely delivered meaning they can be completed anywhere in the world! We have remotely delivered NPQs to International Schools colleagues in places as remote as the Falkland Islands and the Seychelles so location is not an issue.



We use facilitated online webinars and the Virtual Learning Environment Canvas to ensure that participants completing NPQs remotely get access to the same great content and support as the thousands of NPQ participants who complete these qualifications through Face-to-Face learning in the UK.

The NPQ certificates received by UK participants and International participants are identical and are in high demand by both UK schools and International Schools.

Contact us

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Entry requirements

NPQH applicants should be in a current headteacher, deputy headteacher, vice principal or equivalent role and about 18 months away from applying for headship (if not already in post).

In order to be accepted onto the qualification, participants will need to identify and nominate a sponsor. This should be someone with a detailed and professional knowledge of the participant's work, impact, professional characteristics and leadership behaviours.

How to apply

Completing an NPQ is a huge achievement that requires a significant investment in time and effort. As such we advise all participants to follow these steps when applying:

- Discuss the NPQ with your chair of governors, school improvement officer or executive headteacher. What are your goals? How will the NPQ benefit your school and pupils?
- Contact us with any questions about the qualification or the availability of funding.
- Start your application as early as possible to avoid the last minute NPQ rush!

The new and simplified NPQ application form can be found at outstandingleaders.org/npqh-international

It should take no longer than 10 minutes to complete and our NPQ advisors are on-hand via our website's livechat to answer your questions and support your application.

We look forward to working with you 😊

What's next?

Participants who successfully complete NPQH may choose to continue their professional development through the completion of a master's degree in educational leadership using the 60 master's credits earned through completion of the qualification.

Alternatively, participants might go on to complete the National Professional Qualification in Executive Leadership (NPQEL).

Professionally, NPQH graduates may choose to apply for a headship or system leadership role, such as national leader of education (NLE) or teaching school director.



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Department for Education

