

Frequently Asked Questions

Prospective Participants

Q: What is the benefit of doing an NPQ to me?

A: This question is answered in further detail under each programme on the UCL website but generally participants say that NPQs give them greater confidence to lead, with access to research-based approaches that are designed to make a difference to pupils in your school. You will certainly come away with a greater knowledge of the change process having successfully delivered an implementation project unique to the UCL model. Some candidates find this is the perfect springboard for them to apply for new roles; others find themselves equipped to lead with greater efficacy. The chance to learn from peers is highly acclaimed. The content varies depending on the programme but the NPQSENCO is the only qualification that is statutory.

Q: What is the benefit to my school?

A: We see the most impact in schools where NPQs are delivered as part of the wider CPD strategy. In these circumstances schools can harness implementation projects to help drive key changes and might tie this in with school improvement plans. Leaders will be developed and inspired to make a difference in the lives of young people which in some cases contributes to the retention of highly qualified staff.

Q: If I've already completed an NPQ will I still get funding to complete another one?

A: If your school is eligible then yes you can apply for another funded NPQ. Please click below for more information.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/funding-for-national-professional-qualifications-npqs/funding-for-national-professional-qualifications-npqs>

Q: Can I start the programme if I'm intending to move schools during the course of study?

A: Yes. You may find you need to start a new implementation project but that is not prohibitive as long as your new school is supportive of you taking time out for the sessions and will give you a platform to complete your project. You will also need a mentor at your new school to support you through the remainder of the programme.

Q: Who should mentor me?

A: Participants usually choose to be mentored by their line manager but this is not always the case. It can help, because you will be meeting regularly anyway and it may therefore reduce workload. There is also a likelihood that they know you and your work well and can offer sound advice. Ultimately it should be someone whom you respect and who the school is willing to commit to meeting 3 times with you during your programme.

Q: If I struggle to keep up with the programme due to some reason then can I take a break and come back to it later?

A: There are various circumstances in which you are able to apply for a deferral. The schedule is deliberately flexible and UCL and TSH Berkshire will do all we can to support you to complete with your original cohort but if you do wish to defer then we will support you with the process.

Q: Who facilitates the courses?

A: Each course is facilitated by carefully selected local leaders who are experts in their field. The materials are prepared by UCL.

Q: How many hours of study am I required to do?

A: The guided learning hours are on the route maps which can be found in the detail of each course here - [National Professional Qualifications | UCL Institute of Education](#). Most specialist programmes are a minimum of 86 hours across the year including face to face sessions, online learning, mentor meetings and independent project work.

Q: How is the course assessed?

A: At the end of the 12 month (specialist) or 18 month (leadership) period you will complete a case study based assessment where you are required to apply your learning to the particular context you are provided with across 5 questions. It is an open book assessment of 1500 words (specialist) or 2500 words (leadership). Your assessment is submitted online and marked and moderated by an external organisation.

Current Participants

Q: Why can't I access the next module?

A: This can be because you haven't completed one or more than one of the compulsory activities for the module you are doing currently. Please click on the little arrow on the right-hand side of your course page. If you click on the 'More details' under the 'Course Completion Status' you will be able to see all the sections, you should have completed for a particular module. They are:

- The audit summary tasks for each topic
- The reflection activities for each live session
- The FATS and updated the date for your line manager/mentor meeting
- The learning audit review
- The end of module evaluation

Q: Where can I find the FATS – Formative Assessment Tasks?

A: You will find them at the end of the PLJ – Personal Learning Journal - for each domain (topic).

Q: How many FATS do I need to do per module?

A: NPQ Specialists – You will need to do 6 FATS in total for the whole programme. That is 2 FATS per module. The FATS can be from the same domain (topic) or from different domains of each module.

NPQ Leadership – You will need to complete 8 FATS in total for the whole programme. That is 2 FATS per module and then 2 more FATS from one or two modules of your choice.

Please be aware that for some programmes the FATS can have more than one sub-section, but they will still count as 1 FAT.