



# National Award for SEN Coordination

## Qualification Specification



## About NASENCO

The National Award for SEN Coordination (NASENCO) was introduced by the Teaching Agency (TA) in September 2009. Achieving the award is mandatory for all SENCOs new to the role in a mainstream school or academy. It is also available to experienced and aspiring SENCOs.

BPN's NASENCO programme is delivered in partnership with the Institute of Education's Taught Postgraduate Department at Bath Spa University (BSU). It incorporates the Postgraduate Certificate in SEN Coordination from their Professional Master's Programme (worth the first 60 credits towards a Master's (MA) degree).

The programme is rooted in effective practice in schools and is strongly focused on improving provision and outcomes for pupils with SEND. The programme accredits the practical activities, research processes and reflective writing you will engage in through a variety of assessment modes.

## Entry requirements

Recruitment to our programme is managed by Best Practice Network. Entry requirements are:

- Qualified Teacher Status (or QTLS) - GTC/DCSF number to be supplied
- Satisfactory completion of statutory induction (if you gained QTS from July 1999 onwards)
- Confirmation of SENCO role as designated by the governing body OR confirmation of Headteacher support if applying as an aspiring SENCO

## Benefits for candidates

Participants will develop their knowledge, understanding and skills across the 10 key themes

- The statutory and regulatory context for SEN and disability equality and the implications for practice in their school or work setting
- The principles and practice of leadership in different contexts
- How SEN and disabilities affect pupils' participation and learning
- Strategies for improving outcomes for pupils with SEN and/or disabilities

- Working strategically with senior colleagues and governors
- Leading, developing and, where necessary, challenging senior leaders, colleagues and governors
- Critically evaluating evidence about learning, teaching and assessment in relation to pupils with SEN to inform practice
- Drawing on external sources of support and expertise
- Developing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating relevant systems
- Personal and Professional Qualities

## Benefits for schools

- Increased national partnership opportunities and insight into the systems, sectors and sources of effective leadership practice
- Increased commitment to build relationships with a range of stakeholders within the organisation and the wider community
- A professionally aware and informed leader who can make evidence-based strategic decisions and approach new challenges in an effective and efficient manner
- The ability to review and evaluate practice in order to bring about change and get the best for young people and staff within the organisation



## Qualification components

Component	Overview
<b>Duration of study</b>	<p>Master's Level Work: From the time of registration participants have four terms within which to submit two academic assignments.</p> <p>National Award Learning Outcomes: All learning outcomes must be completed within 18 months of the first face to face training day.</p>
<b>Learning needs analysis</b>	Enables participants to focus their learning on areas of greatest need. It helps decide the academic reading and research needed to undertake and highlight what further experience and confidence participants need to gain.
<b>Facilitated events</b>	6 full event days consisting of tailored practice tasks, group networking and self-managed learning interaction supporting powerful dialogue and leadership training.
<b>Online learning</b>	Online self-directed modules focussed on the NASENCO themes, allowing participants the flexibility to broaden and deepen their knowledge and understanding of areas of particular interest or need.
<b>Webinars</b>	Exploring key themes and good practice in both SEN provision and academic writing
<b>Personal tutor</b>	Individual support to guide and assess participant evidence of each LO through the e-portfolio and to support the development of the academic writing assignments.
<b>Technical and administrative support</b>	Ongoing support from our team of programme and technical administrators

## Qualification content

The qualification content is designed to enable SENCOs to develop:

1. An in-depth knowledge and understanding of the SENCO role, informed by current practice, scholarship and research.
2. A critical awareness of current issues and developments in the area of Special Educational Needs and the role of SENCO.
3. The ability to apply research to professional situations, both practical and theoretical.
4. The ability to use a range of techniques and research methods applicable to their professional activities through supported, scaffolded activities.

## Qualification schedule

### Self-directed learning

Initial needs analysis diagnostic	Theme 1 - Professional knowledge and understanding
	Theme 2 - Leading and coordinating provision
	Theme 3 - Personal and Professional Qualities

### Reflective Account

Academic writing Induction	Reflective Account (RA) 1		Reflective Account (RA) 2	
	Submit initial plan for feedback	Submit RA	Submit initial plan for feedback	Submit RA

### Facilitated Learning

Day 1		Day 2		Day 3		Day 4		Day 5				Day 6			
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### Months

01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
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## Programme content

Component	Overview
Day 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Qualification insights, qualification organisation, and development expectations</li> <li>• Introducing the Learning Outcomes and how they can be evidenced</li> <li>• Introducing the requirements for assignments 1 and 2</li> <li>• Inclusion, the role of the SENCO, Working with Stakeholders,</li> <li>• How SEND affect learning and participation</li> </ul>
Day 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing an assignment – Speech, language and communication needs</li> <li>• Inspection frameworks</li> <li>• The Local Offer, funding models, mediation and the policy and legislative context for health and social care</li> <li>• Safeguarding and data protection</li> <li>• How SEND affect learning and participation</li> </ul>
Day 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leading and Coordinating provision</li> <li>• Working with governors</li> <li>• The characteristics of highly effective leadership</li> <li>• Role modelling, coaching and mentoring</li> <li>• How SEND affect learning and participation</li> </ul>
Day 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Factors which influence learning</li> <li>• Severe and complex SEND</li> <li>• Developing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating systems</li> <li>• Children with SEND and bullying</li> <li>• How SEND affect learning and participation</li> </ul>
Day 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision Mapping</li> <li>• Assessment of SEND</li> <li>• Developing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating systems</li> <li>• Focus on Reflective Account 2</li> <li>• How SEND affect learning and participation</li> </ul>
Day 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Differentiation</li> <li>• Structured conversations</li> <li>• How SEND affect learning and participation</li> <li>• Needs-led workshop</li> <li>• Review and next steps</li> </ul>

## Achievement of the Award

To achieve the award, participants need to fully complete:

- 60 Master's level credits – the Postgraduate Certificate in SEN Coordination
- All Learning Outcomes of the programme, specified by the DfE

In order to fulfil the requirements of being a SENCO, the programme is designed along two integrated strands: a Professional Strand, which is designed to support SENCOs in meeting the set learning outcomes and a Master's Strand which is designed to deepen understanding of these learning outcomes through critical reflection. The student must complete NASENCO modules 1 and 2 and also complete the professional strand to exit with the NASENCO.

## What's next?

Candidates that achieve the National Award for SEN Co-ordination may choose to continue their professional development through the completion of a full master's degree.

## Masters accreditation

The qualification has been developed in collaboration with Bath Spa University to be delivered at Masters level 7. Candidates successful in achieving the qualification will accrue 60 master's credits.

## Course intakes

We have two qualification intakes per annum; one in the autumn term and one in the spring term. For further information and for application deadlines please see our website [www.bestpracticenet.co.uk/nasenco](http://www.bestpracticenet.co.uk/nasenco)

## Delivery locations

We work with a range of delivery partners to provide local delivery wherever possible on a national scale. Central locations in major cities may be offered to support access to face-to-face. Online options are available for each of the 6 days for individuals unable to attend a face-to-face event

## Further information

For further information regarding our qualification offer please contact the team

[cpd@bestpracticenet.co.uk](mailto:cpd@bestpracticenet.co.uk) or call us on **0117 9209 200**.

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### Contact us

[www.bestpracticenet.co.uk](http://www.bestpracticenet.co.uk)

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