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

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

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<th>Qualification components</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Component</strong></td>
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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
<table>
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<th>Initial needs analysis diagnostic</th>
<th>Theme 1 - Professional knowledge and understanding</th>
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<td>Theme 2 - Leading and coordinating provision</td>
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<td>Theme 3 - Personal and Professional Qualities</td>
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Reflective Account
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<th>Academic writing Induction</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Submit initial plan for feedback</td>
<td>Submit RA</td>
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<td>Submit RA</td>
<td>Submit initial plan for feedback</td>
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Facilitated Learning
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<th>Day 1</th>
<th>Day 2</th>
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Months
| 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 06 | 07 | 08 | 09 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |

Programme content

Component Overview

Day 1
- Qualification insights, qualification organisation, and development expectations
- Introducing the Learning Outcomes and how they can be evidenced
- Introducing the requirements for assignments 1 and 2
- Inclusion, the role of the SENCO, Working with Stakeholders,
- How SEND affect learning and participation

Day 2
- Developing an assignment – Speech, language and communication needs
- Inspection frameworks
- The Local Offer, funding models, mediation and the policy and legislative context for health and social care
- Safeguarding and data protection
- How SEND affect learning and participation

Day 3
- Leading and Coordinating provision
- Working with governors
- The characteristics of highly effective leadership
- Role modelling, coaching and mentoring
- How SEND affect learning and participation

Day 4
- Factors which influence learning
- Severe and complex SEND
- Developing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating systems
- Children with SEND and bullying
- How SEND affect learning and participation

Day 5
- Provision Mapping
- Assessment of SEND
- Developing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating systems
- Focus on Reflective Account 2
- How SEND affect learning and participation

Day 6
- Differentiation
- Structured conversations
- How SEND affect learning and participation
- Needs-led workshop
- Review and next steps
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

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 or call us on 0117 9209 200.