

# Executive Leaders Apprenticeship with NPQEL – Level 7

Qualification Specification



Includes  
Two  
Qualifications:  
NPQEL + SLA

Accredited NPQ provider

# Executive Leaders Apprenticeship with NPQEL

The Executive Leaders Apprenticeship with NPQEL is a dual award which has mapped the DfE's flagship **NPQ for Executive Leadership (NPQEL)** to the **Level 7 Senior Leaders Standard**. By mapping the two qualifications, we have created a programme which allows participants to complete two qualifications concurrently with a much smaller workload than would be required if completing the qualifications separately.

## One Programme, Two Certificates

### Level 7 Senior Leader Apprenticeship (SLA)

The Level 7 Senior Apprenticeship Standard is designed for individuals moving into, or already in, a senior or strategic management role. Outside of education, this standard is usually completed by Senior Managers, Section Leaders, Executives, Directors, COO, CFO, CEO, CIO roles, and senior military officers. Within education, the standard is commonly completed by existing and aspiring Headteachers, Executive Headteachers and CEOs of MATs and other schools groups.

The Level 7 SLA provides broad, cross-sector, senior and executive leadership training and, as such, is the perfect complement to the NPQEL which is designed more specifically for executive school leadership.



#### Element Spotlight: Apprenticeship Tutor

Apprenticeship tutors are themselves experienced former executive leaders or headteachers and the close relationship they form with participants forms the cornerstone of the Executive Leaders Apprenticeship with NPQEL.

Participants work with their tutor to develop an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) and set out broader personal and professional development goals. Monthly progress review meetings ensure participants are progressing against their personal objectives and the requirements of the programme.



#### SLA

Qualification level: **Level 7**  
– A full Level 7 qualification allowing holders to bypass completing a master's and apply for PhDs as well as job roles which require a Level 7 qualification

Professional registration links:  
**Chartered Manager (CMgr MCMI)**  
or **Chartered Fellow (CMgr FCMI)**

### National Professional Qualification for Executive Leadership (NPQEL)

NPQEL gives participants all of the essential knowledge, skills and concepts that underpin successful executive school leadership. The qualification was reformed by the DfE in 2021 and now draws from the very latest evidence and research whilst also benefiting from a streamlined final assessment.

Best Practice Network, home of Outstanding Leaders Partnership, is the leading provider of NPQs and our programmes are characterised by the thoroughness of the content, the support guaranteed to participants and the enthusiasm of our national delivery network.



#### Element Spotlight: NPQEL face-to-face content outline

The NPQEL programme includes six face-to-face events spread across the 18-month duration of the qualification.

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

Days 1 and 2 are combined and take the form of a Residential held in a suitable venue. Meals and a hotel stay are provided for all participants.



#### NPQEL

Qualification level: **Level 7**

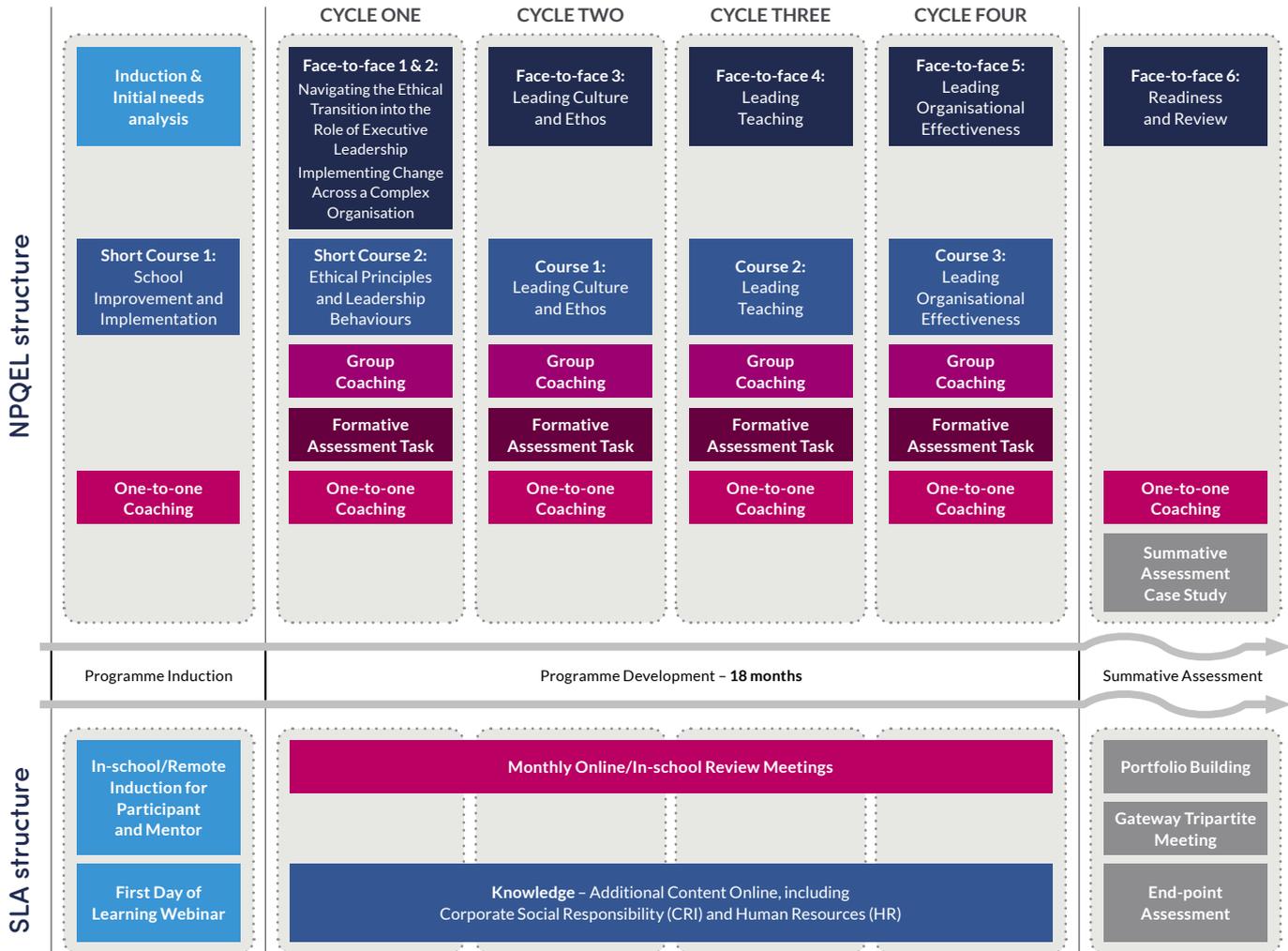


**Worth 60 Master's credits**

Professional registration links:  
**National Professional Qualification for Executive Leadership (NPQEL)**

# Two Certificates, One Programme

## Combined programme structure



## Qualification elements

### SLA elements

INDUCTION STAGE	
Setting goals	4 hours
First Day of Learning webinars	6 hours
DEVELOPMENT STAGE	
Monthly progress review meetings	19 hours
Observations	7 hours
Additional content delivery	12 hours
SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT STAGE	
Portfolio building	24 hours
Project proposal	8 hours
<b>Total learning hours</b>	<b>80</b>

### NPQEL elements

INDUCTION STAGE	
Induction (incl. Initial needs analysis: 1 hour)	6 hours
DEVELOPMENT STAGE	
Face-to-face events	36 hours
Online course study	38 hours
Formative assessment tasks	34 hours
Leadership performance coaching	10 hours
SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT STAGE	
Case study scenario	Max. 1500 words
<b>Total guided learning hours</b>	<b>124</b>

## Off-the-job training

Off-the-job (OTJ) Training is an important part of all apprenticeship programmes, it is defined as learning which is undertaken outside of the normal day-to-day working environment within contracted hours, leading towards the achievement of an apprenticeship.

Apprenticeship Tutors will help the apprentice recognise what activities they can use to evidence the OTJ Training. Examples of OTJ training include:

- Training events
- Inset days
- Coaching and mentoring
- Reflective learning
- Shadowing
- Networking and moderation events
- Project activity
- Research
- Interactive online learning

## 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.

## Delivery locations

Delivery venues are largely provided through our national network of teaching school and multi-academy trust partners. Participants applying from one of our partner groups will be allocated to that group for the face-to-face events\*.

In addition to partner groups we also have a number of groups located according to the geography of the participants that register, helping minimise travel time for the majority of participants.

Apprenticeship Tutors will periodically travel to participants' schools for the monthly Performance Reviews.

\* Subject to group viability

## Entry requirements

Executive Leaders Apprenticeship with NPQEL applicants must be a serving headteacher (or equivalent role) with a minimum of 3 years' experience.

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.

## Contact us

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



## Funding

### The Apprenticeship Levy

The Executive Leaders Apprenticeship with NPQEL qualifies for funding from the Apprenticeship Levy. Employers with a salary bill over £3m per annum are required to pay 0.5% of their salary bill into the levy. These funds are ring-fenced for apprenticeship programmes and after two years unused funds are lost.

If your organisation does not pay into the levy, then it always co-invests with the government. The maximum amount your organisation will pay for apprenticeship training is 5% of the total cost.

### Accessing levy funding

Best Practice Network can support your school to access funding for the Executive Leaders Apprenticeship with NPQEL.

If you are from a Levy paying school, funding will be drawn down directly using your Apprenticeship Service Account.

If you are a non-Levy paying school, the Education Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) will fund 95% of the course fee through the 'co-investment' scheme.

## How to apply

Please apply through our website at [bestpracticenet.co.uk/executive-leader](http://bestpracticenet.co.uk/executive-leader)

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

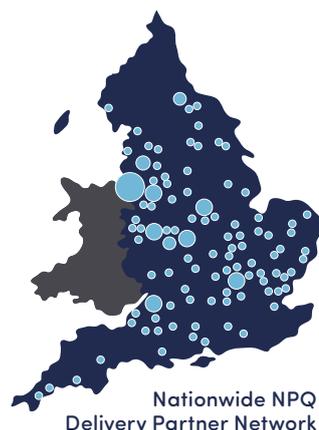
We look forward to working with you 😊

## What's next?

Participants that achieve the NPQEL may choose to continue their professional development through the completion of a master's degree in business administration (MBA) using the 60 master's credits earned through completion of the qualification.

Professionally, NPQEL graduates may choose to apply for executive leadership roles such as CEO or COO of a MAT, executive headteacher posts or similar.

The Senior Leaders Apprenticeship is itself a full Level 7 qualification and allows holders to bypass completing a master's and apply directly for PhDs, as well as job roles which require a Level 7 qualification.



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