

National Award for SENCO Coordination



Who is it for?

SENCOs new to the role from September 2008 onwards are required to gain this award.

In April 2009, the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) announced the introduction of the National Award for SEN Coordination, to recognise the knowledge, skills and attributes of holders of the post of SENCO. As of 1st September 2009, amended regulations came into force that require the school governing body to ensure that the teacher designated as the SENCO, who is new to the role, undertakes nationally approved training.

Why has it been introduced?

The Government is committed to improving outcomes for children with SEN and disabilities. SENCOs have a central role to play in schools to ensure effective provision for children with SEN and disabilities and that individual children's needs are met.

This course is designed to support the professional development of the holders of the role of SENCO. This post is likely to have an increasing importance within the structure of schools and settings, becoming both a clear route for career progression and an important step towards a Masters Degree.

How does this course work?

The National Award will bring together the professional learning outcomes specified by the TDA as appropriate for a SENCO and the academic requirements of a Postgraduate Certificate, which will consist of three Masters Level modules of study.

The course is delivered jointly between Oxford Brookes University and Oxfordshire Local Authority Inclusion Advisory Service.

who is the course for?

All applicants must have Qualified Teachers Status (QTS). They must be a new SENCO which is defined as, 'those who have taken up the lead SENCO responsibilities in their, or any other maintained school, since September 2008). We are anticipating that a course for more experienced SENCOs will follow.

where, when and for how long?

- The taught sessions will be held at Oxford Brookes University, Harcourt Hill Campus.
- There are 3 modules of study comprising of a notional 24 hours per module of teaching activity which may include twilight, day, half-day and on-line learning. Much of the work will be built around practical case studies / projects carried out in your own school.
- You will be coached and supported by your Local Authority Inclusion Consultant in your school.
- It is anticipated that most SENCOs will achieve the National Award in one year.

how is the programme assessed?

To achieve the National Award in SENCO Coordination you must complete

- **A Postgraduate Certificate in Advanced Educational Practice in Special Educational Needs (60 M Level CAT points).** Assessment is 100% coursework, consisting of, for example, an evaluative report, critical essay, practical projects and presentation. The assessment focus of each module can be negotiated to meet your particular interests and needs and where possible, to tie into work you are already doing in school.
- **Present a portfolio of evidence** for assessment which demonstrates you have met all the learning outcomes specified by the TDA.

what can the course lead to?

The 60 M level credits gained can then be used towards an MA in Education

what is the cost?

We are currently awaiting confirmation from the TDA about costs. Further information will be sent out as soon as possible.

how do I find out more?

- **Complete the attached expression of interest form:** this will ensure you receive all the latest information as it becomes available
- **Email:** cpdadmin@brookes.ac.uk
- **Telephone:** 01865 488577