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Middleton, Tristan ORCID: 0000-0001-8111-3856 (2019) The National Award for SEN Coordination (NASENCO): What do you need to know? Connect. (In Press)

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The National Award for SEN Coordination (NASENCO): What do you need to know?

What is the law relating to the NASENCO qualification?

From September 2008 legislation has stated that all state-funded mainstream schools in England, including Academies, free schools, university technical colleges and maintained nurseries are required to employ a qualified teacher in a Special Educational Co-ordinator (SENCO) role.

Legislation in 2009 and the subsequent Children & Families Act (2014), went on to stipulate that every new SENCO in these settings would need to gain the NASENCO qualification within 3 years of taking up the post.

What is the Provider Partnership?

In 2014 the DfE ceased to accredit providers of the NASENCO course. In order to maintain the quality and integrity of the qualification the previously accredited providers joined together to form the NASENCO Provider Partnership. 33 providers in all regions of England, including original and new providers, are now part of the Provider Partnership, and further organisations have their membership pending.

Why should I choose a NASENCO course which is part of the Provider Partnership?

All courses which are part of the Provider Partnership have been through a quality standards process. This process ensures that the course fulfils the legal requirements of the NASENCO qualification.

Furthermore, members of the Provider Partnership meet together regularly to discuss and work on matters relevant to SENCOs. This means that students following their courses have access to practitioners and academics who are working at the cutting edge in the field.

How do I know that a NASENCO course is part of the Provider Partnership?

A list of the courses which are part of the Provider Partnership are listed by nasen. This list can be viewed at <http://www.nasen.org.uk/about/partnerships/>. Courses which have been through the quality standards process are the only ones who are entitled to also carry the Provider Partnership logo.



What is the NASENCO qualification?

All NASENCO courses must be taught as a Masters level course. As such, when you achieve the NASENCO qualification, you will normally also gain a PostGraduate Certificate (PGCert) in Education. A PGCert is equivalent to one third of a full Masters qualification. As such many successful NASENCO graduates use this course as a springboard from which to go on to complete their Masters. You can find out more about this opportunity from individual providers.

What will I learn on a NASENCO course?

The content within all courses which lead to the NASENCO qualification is guided by the NASENCO Learning Outcomes. These learning outcomes were published by the National College for Teaching and Leadership in 2014 and are available to download here; <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-award-for-sen-co-ordination-learning-outcomes>

As the NASENCO course is at a Postgraduate Level, the study is of a specialist nature with an emphasis on linking SENCO practice with theory and research. As such, NASENCO courses are not designed to teach you how to do the role of a SENCO nor how to complete specific tasks or paperwork. NASENCO courses which are quality assured by the Provider Partnership will provide you with the theoretical underpinning and understanding of evidence and research to enable you to be a reflective and effective SENCO who can lead SEN provision in your setting, to provide the best outcomes for the children and young people you work with.

How will teaching on the NASENCO course take place?

Courses available from within the Provider Partnership include face-to-face teaching, blended and online approaches. Some are co-planned and delivered in partnership with local authorities or groups of schools. The length and start-date of the course will vary between providers, however the majority of courses can be completed within a year.

What else will the NASENCO course provide me with?

SENCOs who are graduates from Provider Partnership NASENCO courses tell us that in addition to their qualification, they gain knowledge, understanding, confidence and kudos, which all support them to progress the SENCO role in their setting. Many graduates

also report that the connections and networks they make with fellow students are invaluable far beyond the completion of the course.

What are the entry requirements for a NASENCO course?

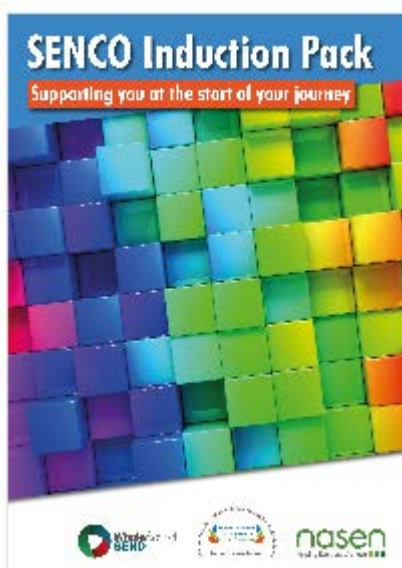
As the NASENCO course is at PostGraduate level, providers normally have the entry requirement of a good undergraduate degree. In addition, all of those who are part of the Provider Partnership will require applicants to hold Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) or Qualified Teacher Learning and Skills status (QTLS). Further details of entry requirements can be checked directly with individual institutions.

What can I do before I start a NASENCO course?

The Provider Partnership recently formed Leading Learning for SEND Community Interest Company (LLESENDiC). LLESENDiC recently created the SENCO Induction Pack for Whole School SEND. This pack, funded by the DfE, can be downloaded for free at;

<https://www.sendgateway.org.uk/whole-school-send/sencos-area/>

and is an invaluable resource for teachers new to the SENCO role.



[Note to editor: the following quotes from NASENCO graduates could be included in boxes to break up the layout]

'As a new SENCO this course was essential. I now have a greater understanding of the legislation behind the SEND provision we have today.' (NASENCO graduate from Real Group)

"I would recommend the course to any aspiring or new SENCOs. It has given me confidence and a deeper understanding into Special Educational Needs (SEN). I now enjoy my role so much more." (NASENCO graduate from Bath Spa University)

"I started this course because I had to gain the National SENDCO qualification but at the end I can appreciate the benefits it has given me. I am more critical, better informed, better able to critically analyse information and more confident in my own expertise. (NASENCO graduate from the University of Gloucestershire)