

National Award for SEN Coordination (NASENCo)



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WHAT IS THE LAW RELATING TO THE NASENCo QUALIFICATION?

Legislation introduced in 2008 states that all state-funded mainstream schools are required to employ a qualified teacher in a Special Educational Co-ordinator (SENCo) role. This includes academies, free schools, university technical colleges and maintained nurseries.

In 2009, it became law for every new SENCo in a mainstream school to gain the masters level NASENCo qualification within three years of taking up the post.

MANCHESTER MET'S NASENCo COURSE IS A "QUALITY COURSE". WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

We are one of the NASENCo providers chosen by the government to deliver the NASENCo course from its inception, in 2009. Over 1,000 students in Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Derbyshire, Cheshire, Shropshire, Merseyside have now successfully achieved the NASENCo Award at Manchester Met. As an accredited provider for the course, we've been awarded a "Quality Standard", evidencing that the course fulfils all the legal requirements of the NASENCo qualification. Furthermore, students enrolled on the courses at Manchester Met have access to practitioners and academics who are leading training in this field.

WHAT IS THE NASENCo QUALIFICATION?

NASENCo is a masters level course. When you achieve the NASENCo qualification, you'll gain a postgraduate certificate (PgCert) in Education. A PgCert is equivalent to one third of a complete masters qualification (60 credits). Many Manchester Met NASENCo graduates use these credits towards a full masters degree (180 credits). For example, going on to study Specific Learning Difficulties (Dyslexia), Autism, Inclusive Education and NPOSL.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ON A NASENCo COURSE?

We've created our NASENCo course content in line with the NASENCo Learning Outcomes published by the National College for Teaching and Leadership in 2014:

gov.uk/government/publications/national-award-for-sen-co-ordination-learning-outcomes

Because the NASENCo course is postgraduate level, the study is of a specialist nature with an emphasis on both research and practice. It will develop your professional SEN skills. You'll critically evaluate evidence on learning, teaching and assessing pupils with SEN. You'll develop the skills to work strategically with senior colleagues and governors. We'll provide you with the theoretical underpinning and an understanding of evidence and

research to enable you to be a reflective and effective SEN leader. You'll gain the confidence to lead SEN provision in schools and other settings, in order to provide the best outcomes for the children and young people.

HOW WILL TEACHING ON THE NASENCo COURSE TAKE PLACE?

You'll have one year to complete two core units plus a Practice Credit Portfolio. This involves 10 attendance days, including a one-day Conference in July.

WHAT ELSE WILL THE NASENCo COURSE PROVIDE ME WITH?

Graduates from the NASENCo course tell us that in addition to their qualification, they gain knowledge and understanding of SEN and confidence in leadership of SEN. Many graduates also report that the connections and networks they make with fellow students are invaluable far beyond the completion of the course.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

For each unit you'll submit a 5,000 word essay. In addition, you'll complete the Practice Credit Portfolio, providing evidence from your school or setting that you're meeting the Learning Outcomes. Upon successful completion of both, you'll be awarded The National Award of Special Educational Needs Coordination PgCert. You'll also be invited to attend the Manchester Met graduation ceremony the following summer term.

WHAT CAN I DO BEFORE I START A NASENCo COURSE?

The Department for Education (DfE) recently published the SENCO Induction Pack. This can be downloaded for free at:

sendgateway.org.uk/whole-school-send/sencos-area/

It is an invaluable resource both for teachers new to the SENCO role and for those with experience.

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