



If you are an applicant in Bournemouth, Dorset or Poole and would like general information about the programme or would like an application form to apply please contact the University of Exeter programme leader Hazel Lawson: [h.a.lawson@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:h.a.lawson@exeter.ac.uk)

The University of Exeter website:  
[socialsciences.exeter.ac.uk/education/graduatestudies/sencoordination](https://socialsciences.exeter.ac.uk/education/graduatestudies/sencoordination)

If you are an applicant in Cornwall, Devon, Plymouth, Torbay or Somerset and would like general information about the programme, please contact the Plymouth University programme leader Mandy Andrews at: [mandy.andrews@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:mandy.andrews@plymouth.ac.uk)

If you are applying for the programme, and work in Cornwall, Devon, Plymouth, Torbay or Somerset please download an application form from the Plymouth University National Award website.

The Plymouth University SENCO website:  
[www.plymouth.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/pgcert-the-national-award-for-special-educational-needs-coordination](https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/pgcert-the-national-award-for-special-educational-needs-coordination)

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**The National Award for SEN Coordination**

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# The National Award for SEN Coordination

## The South West Consortium

The National Award for Special Educational Needs Coordination is a successful training programme designed to support the professional development of special educational needs coordinators (SENCOs) working in a range of educational settings. Our programme builds upon existing skills, experience and qualifications and enables you to develop skills, knowledge and understanding which are practical, relevant and applicable to the SENCO role. Our evaluative evidence from SENCOs, headteachers and our external examiners suggests that the Award is having a positive impact on practice, and the achievements of a range educational settings and their young people. A key element of the programme is the opportunity for networking and sharing practice with other SENCOs.

### Who is it for?

The National Award for SEN Coordination is a postgraduate qualification which must be achieved by teachers new to the role of SENCO. Experienced SENCOs/practitioners can also gain the qualification.

### The South West Consortium training provider

The Award is offered through the South West Consortium consisting of Plymouth University and the University of Exeter, working in partnership with the local authorities of Bournemouth, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Plymouth, Poole and Somerset. Since 2010 over 1500 SENCOs in the South West Consortium have attained the Award. Other providers run this course but we encourage participants to attend their local South West programme. The feedback and pass rate is evaluated as excellent by students and external examiners.

### How is the programme delivered?

The programme is a one year course starting in the Autumn and usually runs in Bodmin, Plymouth, Exeter, Ilminster and Dorchester. The local tutors are mainly SEN advisory teachers and experienced SENCOs, working in conjunction with university tutors. The programme recognises that the SENCO role is not an easy one, with many competing demands, and, as such, the programme is rooted in everyday practice. It also works to help schools, colleges, and SENCOs lead SEN and meet their statutory requirements, as set out in the Code of Practice.

This programme includes:

- two masters level modules, each of which are worth 30 credits
- an individual tutor for each student is allocated, offering high quality local personal tuition
- six face-to-face taught days as a minimum
- tutors who have carried out SEN roles and published in peer reviewed journals
- the local LA context for learning
- networking with local SENCOs and sharing good practice
- a professional learning community through face to face and virtual learning support and resources
- access to university facilities and online resources
- a framework and support instrument to record evidence of SENCO learning outcomes and experiences
- high quality written and verbal formative feedback.

### General programme structure

There are two modules: Organisational Contexts, and Leading on Teaching and Learning. Each module consists of three full days' attendance at sessions in your local authority location.

The modules are designed to explicitly relate to the SENCO learning outcomes. They ensure a critical theoretical perspective while also maintaining relevant context-based practical outcomes. The programme is strongly rooted in effective practice, being up-to-date, research-based and led, taught and facilitated by people with relevant current experience, and expertise.

### How is the programme assessed?

The National Award for SEN Coordination is assessed through the completion of two formal assignments and a professional development portfolio of evidence, much of which is drawn from policies, procedures and systems that you will need to have in place for your SENCO role.

### What can the qualification lead to?

Successful completion of all elements of the programme will result in the National Award for SEN Coordination, which is equivalent to a postgraduate certificate. The 60 credits gained from the National Award can be an important step towards the attainment of a masters degree (eg MA Education Special Educational Needs). The National Award will be completed in one year in most cases.

It is recommended participants agree with their employer a minimum of four study days to support their learning and progression on the programme.

### Fees

The current fees for the SW Consortium NASENCO can be found on the websites given on the final page of this leaflet.

### To apply

We are now taking expressions of interest for the next academic year.

To be able to undertake the course and receive the NASENCO you need:

- to have QTS/QTLS, be a qualified teacher (ie successfully completed NQT induction period) and preferably be a SENCO (if you are not in the SENCO role but have alternative professional experience you may be eligible to attend the course for professional progression, and you should discuss with the programme leader)
- access to young people experiencing SEN
- to be able to lead (at least some) aspects of SEN in your organisation
- to have the support of the headteacher of your senior leadership (or Chair of Governors or equivalent if you are the head/principal).

Teachers who are not SENCOs must have access to appropriate settings and will need the support of their organisation's leadership. If you are not a SENCO you can discuss this aspect of the course with the programme leader.

SENCOs new-to-role in mainstream schools, including academies and free schools must attain the award within three years of starting the SENCO role.

