

## The National Award for SEN Coordination



The **National Award for Special Educational Needs (SEN) Coordination** is a TDA training programme designed to support the professional development of SENCOs.

As from 1st September 2009, new regulations\* require school governing bodies to ensure that any SENCO appointed since September 2008 undertakes this National Award.

### What are the benefits of this programme?

#### To the SENCO

- A national professional qualification
- Latest thinking in SEN tools / techniques
- 60 credits towards a Masters degree such as the MA Education (SEN)
- Tutor / peer support

#### To the school

- Increase participation and raise achievement of pupils with SEN and / or disabilities
- SENCOs trained in the latest thinking
- Compliance with regulatory requirement
- Support from a national organisation

### How is the programme funded?

SENCOs who are new to the role since September 2008 and who join the programme no later than September 2011 will have their course fees fully funded by the TDA and their school may receive up to £1,500 to cover supply costs.

### Why choose Serco / University of Wolverhampton?

Serco has designed and delivered leadership programmes for schools and local authorities for more than a decade. In addition, we deliver educational services on behalf of three local authorities, providing a special educational support services in each. As a result, we have a comprehensive understanding of the Every Child Matters and Aiming High for Disabled Children agendas arising from direct delivery through to nationwide support and capacity building programmes.

The University of Wolverhampton also design and deliver the highly successful MA Education (SEN) programme.

Our joint approach is therefore grounded in practice and we offer a flexible programme personalised to each SENCO. The programme is work-based, recognising that the SENCO role is not an easy one, with many competing demands. As such, the programme is rooted in every day practice.

\*The Education (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2009 (2009 No.1387)

## How is the programme delivered?

Our SENCO programme will be locally based and is flexible, taking into account your prior learning as well as personal circumstances. Briefly, it comprises:

- Three masters level modules, each of which is worth 20 credits;
- Tutor support—following an initial needs analysis, your tutor will assist you in preparing your own learning programme and support you throughout the programme;
- Three face-to-face sessions—where possible delivered locally in schools and local authority venues;
- Online support—discussion groups, networking and seminars;
- Five visits—to other workplaces to gain first hand experience of provision in other settings;
- Mentor support—from within your school or an experienced local SENCO;
- Peer support—from within your own cohort, arranged by the tutor;
- Professional development portfolio—to record evidence of learning and experience.

Successful completion of all elements of the programme will result in the National Award for SEN.

## How is the programme assessed?

The National Award for SEN Coordination is assessed through the completion of a formal assignment within each module 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.

Some experienced SENCOs may chose to have their prior learning accredited and will need to complete a portfolio of evidence to replace one of the modules.

## When can I join the programme?

Our next local programme will begin in January 2012. We are recruiting now for programmes in your area.

## Can I apply to join the programme if I was appointed SENCO before September 2008?

Yes. Experienced SENCOs are eligible. This is a personalised learning programme focusing on developing reflective practitioners who generate innovative and “good” practice.

The cost of tuition and assessment for SENCOs who were appointed prior to September 2008, or from the independent and private education sector is £1,500 VAT exclusive. The cost of accredited prior learning for one module, plus full participation in the remaining two modules is £1,500.

## For further information or to request an application pack, please contact:

### Application pack:

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<http://www.serco.com/markets/education/tda.asp>

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