

## Primary Mathematics Teaching for Mastery Specialist Programme

### Frequently Asked Questions

The NCETM published details of the new Primary Mathematics Teaching for Mastery Specialist Programme on Tuesday 28 April. A full description of the programme and the application form were both published and can still be found [here](#).

Since then, the NCETM has been asked to further clarify certain details about the programme. Answers to the frequently asked questions are given below.

#### Eligibility to participate

1. What role must I have in order to be considered for the programme?  
*You must be a teacher in a primary school that teaches mathematics to at least one class on a regular basis. This is because each mastery specialist is expected to establish the mastery approach within a class, which can then feature as part of the ongoing Teacher Research Group meetings.*
2. If I work in a role supporting teachers but do not have my own class, can I take part?  
*No, it is essential that you teach at least one class regularly.*
3. If I work in an independent school, can I take part?  
*No, the programme is only open to teachers in state-funded schools.*
4. If I work in a school outside England, can I take part?  
*No, the programme is only open to teachers working in England.*
5. How much teaching experience will I need in order to be considered for the programme?  
*The desirable criteria for application include that you have taught mathematics in a primary school for a minimum of two years.*
6. If I am starting a job in a different school in September, can I take part?  
*Yes, but you would need to demonstrate in your application that you have the full support of your new school to take on the mastery specialist role.*

#### Training programme

7. Where will the training residentials take place?  
*There will be six different cohorts of 20 or 24 teachers that will each meet in different regions of the country. The exact training locations are still being finalised.*
8. When will the training take place?  
*Each residential is a two-day programme starting mid-morning on the first day and finishing mid-afternoon the next day. All residentials will take place during the week in term-time. Each cohort has three residentials that are currently scheduled for October/November, January, and March/April. The exact dates have not yet been finalised.*
9. Will there be written assignments and reports required as part of the programme?  
*We are currently devising the reflection and feedback elements of the programme, including any written elements. We would expect these to be different from the longer written assignments often associated with Masters courses.*

10. Can participation in the programme contribute towards my Masters credits?

*This may be possible, but you would need to discuss this with your university. The NCETM is also beginning to explore this possibility with universities, but even then it will not be a requirement of the programme.*

### **Teacher Research Groups**

11. What happens in a Teacher Research Group (TRG) meeting?

*The exact format will vary but we would expect each meeting to take a half-day and to include discussion before a lesson, teaching/observation of a lesson, and discussion after the lesson. The meeting would take place in a school, normally the mastery specialist's school and classroom.*

12. What TRG meetings would I lead during Year 1?

*You will lead regular TRG meetings (eventually weekly) with teachers in your own school to help support the establishment of a mastery approach across the school. You will also lead a pilot external TRG that will meet four times on a half-termly basis starting in the spring term 2016.*

13. What TRG meetings would I lead during Year 2?

*As well as continuing with your own school TRG, you will also lead up to five external TRGs. The external TRGs will meet six times on a half-termly basis starting in the autumn term 2016.*

14. How will the members of TRGs be recruited and how will the TRG meetings be scheduled?

*Your Maths Hub will organise membership of the TRGs. We currently expect TRGs to be made up of about 10 teachers, with pairs of teachers from five schools. This is to enable the pairs of teacher to support each other back in their own school. Your Maths Hub will liaise with you on the scheduling of the TRG meetings. In particular, the scheduling of Year 2 TRGs will be organised in the summer term 2016.*

15. What support will be provided for leading the TRGs?

*The NCETM will provide guidance on leading TRGs and suggest potential foci for particular meetings, especially during Year 1. You will work in a pair with another mastery specialist from your Maths Hub to provide mutual support. Also, each cohort will have its own online community to facilitate ongoing dialogue and exchange of practice.*

### **Costs and funding**

16. What is the cost of the residential training programme?

*There is no charge to the participants for the training programme. The costs of the programme are being met by Maths Hubs Programme funding.*

17. How will release time be paid for in Year 1?

*12 days release time is required for the trainee mastery specialists in Year 1. These days will be paid for by the Maths Hub. The members of the pilot TRGs will not be charged. The release time includes six days for the three residentials and six days to prepare, lead and support the pilot TRGs.*

18. How will release time be paid for in Year 2?

*Up to 30 days release time will be required in Year 2 in order to plan and lead up to five TRGs. The cost of release in Year 2 is likely to be at a Specialist Leader of Education (SLE) rate and will be met by charging the participating schools.*