

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	PgC National Award Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO)
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 7
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	None
Credit Structure ²	60 Credits at level 7
Mode of Attendance	Part-time
Standard Length of Course ³	1 year Part-time
Intended Award	PgC National Award Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO)
Named Exit Awards	None
Entry Requirements ⁴	<p>Students will require the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2:2 minimum classification or equivalent from undergraduate degree in a relevant subject, from a UK university or other recognised degree-awarding body, or a qualification at equivalent level. • Relevant Teaching Qualification • Early Years Teacher Status (EYTS) • Early Years Professional Status (EYPS)
Delivering Institution	University of Suffolk

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the PgC National Award Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 7 in the 2018-19 academic year⁵.

Course Summary

The statutory special educational needs and disability (SEND) legislation framework in the form of the Children and Families Act introduced in September 2014 marks a new era of special and inclusive education in the UK. The subsequent Special Educational Needs Code of Practice states that governing bodies of maintained mainstream schools and the proprietors of academy schools (including free schools) should ensure that there is a qualified teacher designated as Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) for the school. It requires that SENCO's provide leadership and professional guidance to

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

² All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the [Higher education credit framework for England](#).

³ Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the [Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards](#).

⁴ Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the [Admissions Policy](#)

⁵ The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the [Admissions Policy](#).

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colleagues and work closely with staff, parents and carers, and other agencies. They should also promote person-centred, inclusive practice where the interests and needs of pupils with SEN and/or disabilities are at the centre of everything they do. With this in mind, the PgC National Award Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) course offered at the University of Suffolk provides existing and new SEN Co-ordinators the opportunity to improve practice and gain a nationally recognised award.

Course Aims

- raise the skill levels of SENCOs by developing their professional knowledge and understanding of the legislative context of SEN and by encouraging them to apply appropriate theoretical concepts to enhance effective leadership and practice.
- develop the expertise and capabilities needed to lead and coordinate provision effectively
- enable space for reflection on the personal and professional qualities that SENCOs need to make a positive impact on the ethos and culture in schools and other settings

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the PgC National Award Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 7 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)⁶.

On completion students will:

1. Have a systematic critical understanding of knowledge about theory and practice in the field of SEND.
2. Have a critical awareness of current problems/new insights, which is at the forefront of research and practice in SEND.
3. Be able to write clearly for specialist and non-specialist audiences in a scholarly manner.
4. Be able to critically evaluate current educational research and scholarship.
5. Be able to apply knowledge originally for example to problem solving in new or unfamiliar environments or showing creativity through handling complexity.

These generic learning outcomes form the basis of the learning outcomes for the individual modules. They also articulate with the generic grading criteria used to underpin the marking for each assignment. However, whilst the PgC National Award Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) draws on the Master degree characteristics primarily, the Learning Outcomes of the National Award for SENCO complement the above benchmarks and will therefore be embedded within course. The Learning Outcomes relating to the Award are structured in three parts:

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| Part A | The professional knowledge and understanding that SENCO's need of the legislative context of SEN and theoretical concepts that underpin effective leadership and practice |
| Part B | The expertise and capabilities that SENCO's need to lead and coordinate provision effectively |
| Part C | The personal and professional qualities that SENCO's need to make a positive impact on the ethos and culture in schools and other settings |

⁶ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

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Course Structure

The PgC National Award Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) is offered at the University of Suffolk on a part-time basis over one academic year. The 60 credits at HE Level 7 will comprise two modules, the first being a 20 credit module (SENCO – Guiding Provision and Practice) which will be delivered in the Autumn Term and the 40 credit module (SENCO - Leading and Managing) will span across the Spring and Summer term of the same academic year.

All modules are mandatory.

Module title	Credits	Module type	Delivery point
Guiding Provision and Practice	20	Core	Ipswich
Leading and Managing	40	Core	Ipswich

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a PgC National Award Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO).

Course Delivery

It is our aim to provide students with a range of learning environments and styles of teaching and learning which will suit the varied subject matter within the different modules, and support the needs of students at all levels of the programme. Teaching and learning will take a blended approach, offering face to face and online lectures, seminars, workshop activities, each supported by a programme of tutorial support.

The course is delivered at the Ipswich Campus of the University of Suffolk. The 60 credits course is divided between two modules (one 20 credits and one 40 credits) taken over one academic year. For each 20 credits, students are likely to have approximately 15 contact hours comprising a mix of lecture, seminar, practical activity, workshops, and personal tutorials and would normally be expected to undertake 45 hours of guided learning and around 140 hours of independent study. However, students should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

Course Assessment

A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to assess each module's intended learning outcomes. Assessment on the course overall will include essays, reports, case study analysis and portfolio presentations.

Course Team

The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from a team that includes teaching specialists and current practitioners. All staff are qualified in their subjects with their own specialist knowledge to contribute.

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Course Costs

Students undertaking PgC National Award Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK/EU	£2,550 per year
Part-time UK/EU	£850 per 20 credit module
Full-time International	£3,500 per year
Part-time International	£1,165 per 20 credit module

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy.

Academic Framework and Regulations

This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the [website](#).