



National leaders of governance Cohort 5: eligibility criteria

Clarification of terms: the terms listed below are used throughout the criteria. The use of terms is solely to make the document easier to read, and applicants can be assured that our assessment process takes into account applicants' differing contexts.

- **NCTL:** represents the National College for Teaching and Leadership
- **School:** represents school and also represents academy, nursery, sixth-form college and Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)
- **Governing body:** represents the body appointed to be accountable for the management of the school, federation or trust including an interim executive board, the board of trustees or equivalent.
- **Headteacher:** also represents principal, chief executive or executive headteacher



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Eligibility criteria for national leaders of governance (NLGs)

Criteria	How this should be demonstrated
To be considered as an NLG, you must:	
1. Have at least 3 years ¹ experience as a chair of governors in the last 5 years ² and be on the governing body of a school that meets the criteria below (6 and 7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Governor is named as chair on a recent Ofsted inspection³ and/or confirmation from the headteacher
2. Have the skills and attributes to coach and mentor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clear evidence that the applicant has the relevant skills and experience to provide one to one support• Clear evidence that the applicant is willing to develop as a coach and mentor
3. Be able to commit to the minimum time expectation for NLG deployment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ability to provide support for the equivalent of approximately 10 days⁴ per academic year, in addition to your role as chair.
4. Have the full support of your governing body and headteacher	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A declaration within the online application that the governing body and headteacher support the application
Have demonstrated a strong track record and ongoing capacity ⁵ to:	
5a. Lead significant and successful school improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clear evidence of leading school improvement within or outside your current school, and• Leadership has had a positive impact
5b. Lead and develop a governing body	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clear evidence of successfully leading a governing body, and• Clear evidence of working effectively with the headteacher and senior leaders
To be considered as an NLG, your current school must:	
6. Be judged to be good	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Your school's most recent Ofsted inspection has judged the school to be good for overall effectiveness and leadership and management <p>Or in exceptional circumstances⁶,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Your school's most recent Ofsted inspection has judged leadership and management to be good and you are supporting the school's move from an Ofsted category of requires improvement or inadequate. <p>Or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• You have recently (within the last 12 months) moved from a school judged as good for overall effectiveness and leadership and management to support a school judged as requires improvement or inadequate.⁷



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<p>7. Show consistently strong levels of pupil performance⁸ and progress or continued improvement over the last three years, and be above current floor standards⁸ (as evidenced in published DfE data)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Department for Education performance data shows a clear upward trend, or consistently strong levels of attainment, and• latest performance data demonstrates that the school is above the current floor standard and in addition• taking account of their different starting points, the proportions of pupils making and exceeding expected progress compares favourably with national figures
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Eligibility criteria notes

1. In exceptional circumstances applications may be accepted where the applicant has at least 1 year's experience as a chair of governors (at point of designation) if they can clearly evidence that they have the relevant experience to take on this role and meet all other eligibility criteria.
2. If you are no longer a chair of governors, you must be a member of a governing body.
3. Ofsted inspections should be within the last 5 years and will only be considered if they are Section 5, College Inspections and Independent School Inspections. Monitoring inspections will **not** be considered.
4. The 10 days can be delivered through part days, during evenings or at week-ends, and through phone calls and emails as well as face to face.
5. Please note that this evidence will be corroborated through a reference from a senior educational professional.
6. Applicants applying under exceptional circumstances will need to demonstrate that they meet all the other eligibility criteria.
7. The school of an NLG designated under this exception would be expected to move out of category within 2 years.
8. Further information regarding how pupil performance is assessed can be found in the application guidance.
9. Should the floor standards change during the application round, the new floor standard will be applied.

Notes for independent school applicants

Independent schools must have been judged good by ISI in regards to:

- the quality of the pupils' achievements
- the pupils' learning, attitudes and skills
- the contribution of teaching
- the quality of leadership and management.

Alternatively, if the school is inspected by Ofsted, then they will be required to meet the criteria outlined in the eligibility criteria for National Leaders of Governance from maintained schools.

In addition, applicants from independent schools are required to cite evidence and/or show a commitment to collaborating with and supporting maintained schools.