

# Specialist Qualification in Headship (and Educational Leadership) MEd

## Frequently Asked Questions for entry August 2021

### 1: Who is this programme for?

This programme is designed for teachers working in or aspiring to leadership roles in Scottish schools. It is expected that you are likely to want to complete each year of the programme at different points in your career as you prepare for posts in middle leadership, Headship or are an appointed Headteacher.

**Year 1 Middle Leadership** is for those aspiring to, or newly appointed to, posts in middle leadership such as Principal Teacher posts in primary and secondary schools. This module articulates with Local Authority Middle Leadership Programmes and is a final module at the end of Middle Leadership to introduce prospective masters (SCQF level 11) students to academic writing and critical analysis at SCQF Level 11. It is also a 'taster' for the Into Headship Programme (Year 2 of MEd Specialist Qualification in Headship)

**Year 2 Into Headship** is only for teachers nominated by their local authority or school employer to Education Scotland for the Into Headship programme.

**Year 3 In Headship** is only for Headteachers nominated by their local authority or school employer to Education Scotland for the In Headship programme.

**Year 3 Educational Leadership** is open to anyone who has completed years 1 and 2 of the programme.

### 2: Do I need to hold a particular type of post to apply?

- For Year 1, ideally you should be a middle leader in your school/LA ie Principal Teacher
- Year 2, *Into Headship*, requires you to be a school leader, PT/DHT/Acting HT
- Year 3, *In Headship*, requires you to be employed as a Head Teacher

### 3: How does it connect with my work in school?

The modules are all directly connected to your growth as an educational leader in your setting. The learning activities in each module support you to lead developments in your setting.

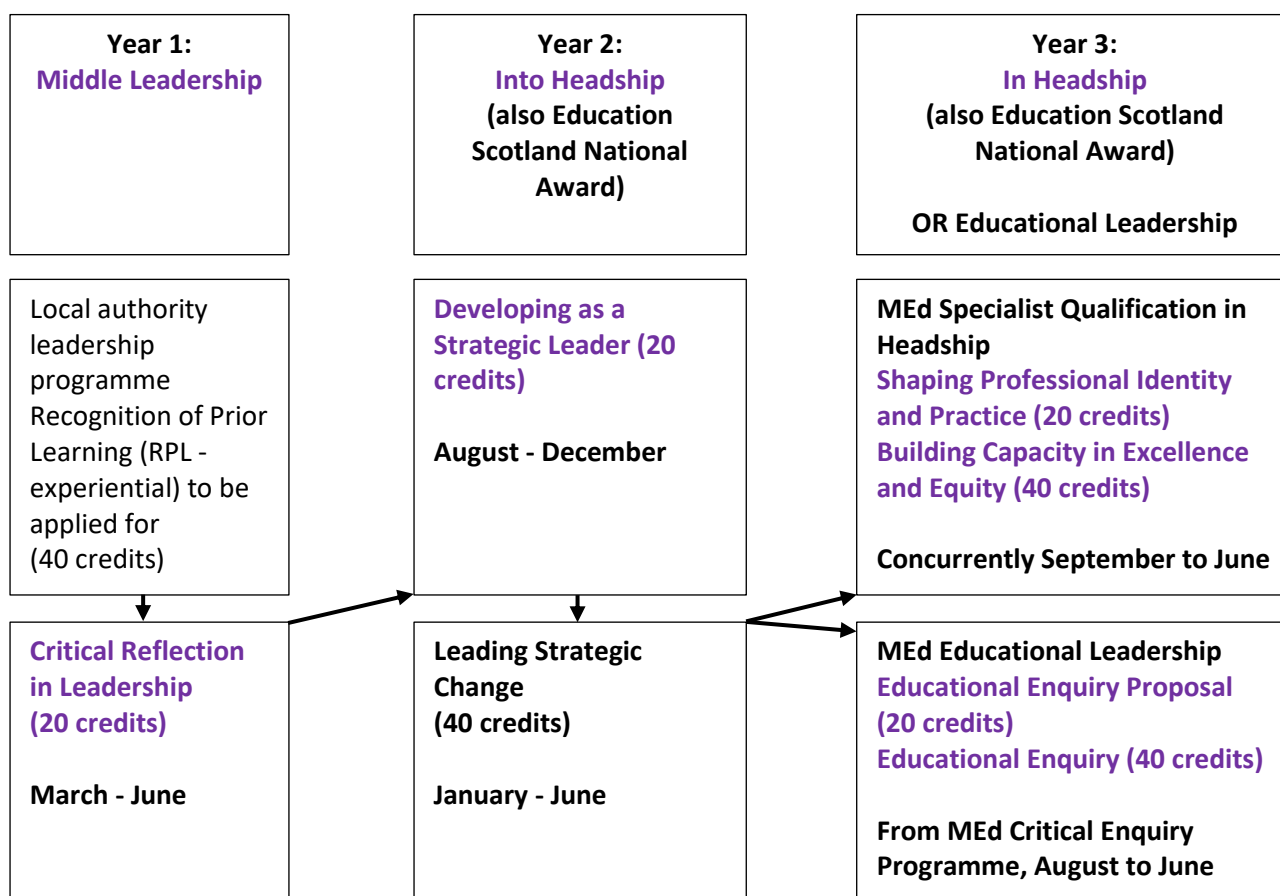
### 4: How will I be supported during the programme?

In each module you will be supported by the Module Tutor. The programme leader will be your personal academic tutor (PAT) throughout the programme. They will provide pastoral support and can connect you to University support services if required.

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### 5: What does the programme include?

The diagram below shows the content of the programme:



### 6: What happens if I need to take a break from my studies?

You can apply to suspend your studies. Your personal academic tutor (PAT) will support you through that process.

### 7: How are people selected for the programme?

The Critical Reflection in Leadership module in year 1, and the MEd Educational Leadership modules in year 3, are open to anyone employed in an education setting in Scotland. Places on the *Into Headship* and *In Headship* programmes are only available through nomination by your local authority or school employer.

### 8: What if I start the programme and do not want to be a headteacher?

If you complete year 1 of the MEd Specialist Qualification in Headship, you may be able to transfer to our MEd Critical Enquiry programme and complete years 2 and 3 of that degree:

<https://www.uhi.ac.uk/en/courses/med-critical-enquiry/>

If you have completed years 1 and 2 of the MEd Specialist Qualification in Headship, you can follow the MEd Leadership pathway in year 3.

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### 9: What qualifications do I need to apply?

You must be registered as a teacher with the GTCS and employed in an education setting in Scotland.

### 10: What does it cost and how can I pay?

For those beginning the programme in 2021-22, the fee for each 20-credit module is £560, and £1120 for each 40-credit module. There are funded places available each year for the open modules in year 1 and the year 3 Educational Leadership modules. This funding is provided through the Scottish Government funding for masters level learning for teachers. Places on the *Into Headship* and *In Headship* programmes are funded directly by the Scottish Government.

### 11: How do I apply?

Please follow the link below to the course page, scroll down to the apply link and click

‘AUG/SEP 2021’:

<https://www.uhi.ac.uk/en/courses/med-specialist-qualification-in-headship/>

### 12. When should I apply?

Local authority nominations to Education Scotland for the *Into Headship* and *In Headship* programmes are usually made by 31<sup>st</sup> March each year. Education Scotland then shares the list with the University and we contact you directly and ask you to complete the online application by the 30<sup>th</sup> April.

The year 1 module, Critical Reflection in Leadership, begins on 1<sup>st</sup> March. The deadline for applications is one month prior, on the 1<sup>st</sup> February that year.

### 13. Programme dates for 2021-22

Critical Reflection in Leadership begins on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

The *Into Headship* Programme is scheduled to begin on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021. There will be an Induction meeting online on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

*In Headship* begins on the last weekend in August, with an initial residential conference organised by Education Scotland. Usually around the end of August each year.

Note: there may be changes to national events for the *Into Headship* and *In Headship* programme due to COVID 19, particularly with reference to the national conferences of *Into Headship* and residential events for *In Headship*. Once enrolled on the course, the programme leader and your local authority link officer will ensure that you are kept up to date with any changes.

There are no planned changes to the Critical Reflection in Leadership module, which is taught in the University virtual learning environment.

### Questions about applying or an existing application?

Please contact Jean Ward at: [Jean.Ward@uhi.ac.uk](mailto:Jean.Ward@uhi.ac.uk)