



## MEd Specialist Qualification in Headship Frequently Asked Questions

*(For entry into academic year 2023/24)*

### 1. Who is this programme for?

This programme is designed for teachers working in, or aspiring to, leadership roles in Scottish primary or secondary schools. It is structured as three discrete Postgraduate Certificates (PgCerts) and it is expected that you will complete each PgCert at different points in your career as you prepare for posts in middle leadership, Headship or have been appointed as a Headteacher.

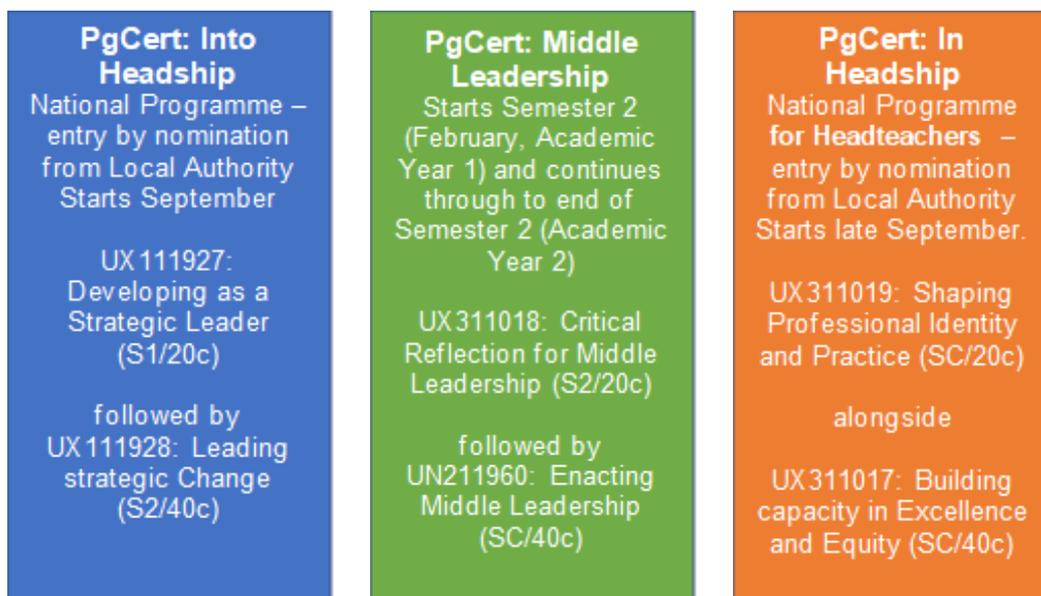
**PgCert Middle Leadership** is for those aspiring to, or newly appointed to, posts in middle leadership such as Principal Teacher posts in primary and secondary schools. The first module (20 credits at SCQF Level 11) starts in February 2024 and leads into a second module (40 credits at SCQF Level 11) starting in September 2025.

**PgCert Into Headship** is for teachers nominated by their local authority (LA) or school employer to Education Scotland for the Into Headship programme.

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

### 2. How do the different years fit together into an MEd?

This diagram shows the overall structure, as clusters of 60 credits of study which make up each of the three named PgCerts.



### 3. What qualifications do I need to apply?

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

#### 4. Do I need to hold a particular type of post to apply?

As outlined above, this depends on your entry point to the programme and the Masters' pathway you wish to follow:

- For Middle Leadership, ideally you should have several years teaching experience and be/ feel ready for a middle leader post in your school/LA (e.g., a PT)
- Into Headship requires you to be a school leader (PT/DHT/Acting HT) and aspiring towards a Headteacher role
- In Headship, requires you to be employed as a Headteacher

#### 5. How are people selected for the programme?

Middle Leadership is open to anyone employed in an education setting in Scotland.

Places on the Into Headship and In Headship programmes are only available through nomination and subsequent selection by your local authority or school employer.

Details of the national programmes can be found at Education Scotland:

- [Into Headship \(education.gov.scot\)](https://www.education.gov.scot/)
- [In Headship \(education.gov.scot\)](https://www.education.gov.scot/)

#### 6. How will I be supported in UHI during the programme?

Each module has a designated Module Leader and study is supported by a Module Tutor. We use a range of digital tools within our UHI Virtual Learning Environment (Brightspace) to build a learning community with each study cohort, and help you overcome the 'distance' of studying online and part-time. The overall Programme Leader also acts as your Personal Academic Tutor (PAT) throughout your programme journey. They provide pastoral support, progression advice and connect you into university administration and support services as needed. For 23-24 this is Lindsay Nicol ([lindsay.nicol.moray@uhi.ac.uk](mailto:lindsay.nicol.moray@uhi.ac.uk)).

#### 7. How does it connect with my work in school?

The modules at every stage in the programme directly connect to your professional growth as an educational leader in your setting. The core learning activities are grounded in current academic and professional reading, and module assessments will engage you in critical reflection and/or enquiry into your current role, context, and practice. Years 1 and 2 align with the GTCS (2021) Standards for Middle Leadership and Headship, respectively.

#### 8. What happens if I need to take a break from my studies?

You can apply to suspend your studies. Your PAT will support you through that process.

#### 9. What does it cost and how can I pay?

The UHI course website gives details of the fees for each module for 2023-24:

[MEd Specialist Qualification in Headship \(uhi.ac.uk\)](https://www.uhi.ac.uk/mefaq/mefaq-2023-24/mefaq-2023-24-fee-structure)

There are some funded places available each year for the open modules in the PgCert Middle Leadership. 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.

#### 10. When should I apply?

Local Authority nominations to Education Scotland for the Into Headship and In Headship programmes are usually made by the end of April each year. Education Scotland then shares the list with the University, and we contact you directly and ask you to complete our online application process by the end of July. You will be invited to a UHI Induction session in early September.

Middle Leadership starts in Semester 2 (February), so applications should be made no later than the final week of January, to allow for enrolment and Induction.

## **11. What if I have further questions about applying or about my application?**

Details of how to apply are available at:

[MEd Specialist Qualification in Headship \(uhi.ac.uk\)](https://www.uhi.ac.uk/med-specialist-qualification-in-headship)

You are also welcome to contact the Programme Leader, Lindsay Nicol, at:

- [lindsay.nicol.moray@uhi.ac.uk](mailto:lindsay.nicol.moray@uhi.ac.uk)