

APPLYING FOR THE SCIENCE TEACHING LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW AND GUIDANCE ON COMPLETING THE APPLICATION FORM

The Science Teaching Leadership Programme is an intensive and comprehensive professional learning opportunity in science for schools teaching years 1 to year 10 students. This programme requires schools to **fully commit** to ongoing development in science for the whole school or department.

Before applying, consider carefully whether your school, community and teachers are ready and have the time to make this commitment.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

A school or science department must:

- formally commit to science being a major learning area for 12–18 months during phase two of the Programme.
- ensure the participant teacher is fully supported to **effectively lead** science learning in the school throughout the duration of the programme.

More details on the commitment required of the school can be found in the **Declaration Form**.

A nominated teacher must:

- be teaching in a primary or intermediate school, or be teaching science to students in years 9 and 10 in a secondary school (including Heads of Departments)
- be a registered teacher who is currently employed by a Board of Trustees in a New Zealand school in a permanent full-time or permanent part-time teaching position (at least 0.8 FTE)
- have delivered the New Zealand National Curriculum for a **minimum of 3 years**
- be a New Zealand Citizen, or the holder of a New Zealand Residency permit
- commit to attending all calendared events during Phase One
- be in a position, **personally and professionally**, to meet the terms and conditions of the Programme (eg, they must not be enrolled in any academic study or planning to take extended personal leave, particularly during Phase One)
- be committed to taking a **lead in science** in their school for 12–18 months during Phase Two.

APPLICATIONS WITH SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

A schools may submit an application that includes some special circumstances, if they provide clear rationale. Possible examples could include:

- nominating two teachers from the school to participate at the same time.
- nominating a teacher to take a leadership role at the school alongside a teacher who has previously completed the Programme, noting that the Programme is not intended to provide general professional development in science for all staff.
- applying as a cluster of schools or a formal Community of Learning.

GENERAL APPLICATION GUIDANCE

- Your application should be typed and completed electronically on the form provided on the website and sent as a PDF to stlp@royalsociety.org.nz.
- If you have any questions, please contact the Society at stlp@royalsociety.org.nz.

FILLING IN THE APPLICATION FORM

- The nominated teacher should complete Sections One and Three. (If more than one nominated teacher is applying, each teacher should provide an individual response to Sections One and Three).
- The Principal, Head of Science Department or Faculty, or another appropriate person should complete Section Two. If the nominated teacher is the HOD/HOF science, Section Two should be completed by either the Principal or the School Curriculum Leader.
- All parties must complete the **Declaration Form**. If more than one school is applying as a cluster or Community of Learning, each school must complete a declaration.
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REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING STATEMENTS

- The nominated teacher needs to provide the names and contact details of **two referees who** the Society can contact to ask about the nominated teacher's competence and potential as a candidate leader.
- The Principal or HOD and the nominated teacher will be contacted separately to provide verbal supporting statements.

INFORMATION FOR SELECTED PARTICIPANT TEACHERS – PREPARATION FOR PHASE ONE

If your application is successful, you will need to manage your time to complete the following requirements before commencement of Phase One of the Science Teaching Leadership Programme (ie, if your cohort is in Term 1 2027, these requirements must be completed in 2026).

- Based on the teacher's areas of interest the Society will identify a suitable host organisation to host the teacher for a 6-month placement. (If necessary this may be more than one organisation.)
- The teacher will meet with the potential host(s) to discuss activities during the placement(s) that will develop their science knowledge and understanding of the Nature of Science.
- The teacher will notify the Society after the meeting, and describe next steps to agree on activities during the placement(s)
- The teacher will work with the Society to develop a document detailing the objectives and indicative expenses for activities during the placement(s).
- The Society will provide information to teachers via email, Dropbox, and a Facebook page before the start of Phase One.
- The Society will draw up formal contracts between the Society, the host organisation, the school and the nominated teacher.