

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 who are teaching years 1 to year 10 students. This programme requires schools to **fully commit** to ongoing whole school or department development in science.

Before applying, consider whether your school, community and teachers are ready and have the time to make this commitment. If there are already considerable priorities, this programme may not be the one for you at this point in time!

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.

A NOMINATED TEACHER MUST:

- Be committed to taking a **lead in science** in their school for 12 – 18 months during Phase Two.
- Be in a position, **personally and professionally**, to meet the terms and conditions of the programme.
- Be either a primary teacher, an intermediate teacher (including science specialist teachers) or a secondary science teacher of years 9 and 10 (including Heads of Departments).
- Be a registered teacher who is in a permanent full or permanent part-time position (at least .8 FTE) and is currently employed by a Board of Trustees teaching in a New Zealand school.
- Have delivered the New Zealand National Curriculum for a **minimum of three years**.
- Be a New Zealand Citizen, or the holder of a New Zealand Residency permit.

PHASE ONE START DATE

Applications are being accepted for places beginning in **Term 1, 2026**.

APPLICATIONS WITH SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Schools may submit an application that includes some special circumstances. A school must provide a clear rationale of why the special circumstances would benefit the quality of science education in the school(s).

Possible examples could include:

- Nominating a second participant teacher, who will also have a leadership role, being mindful of the Programme's investment in developing science leaders rather than being a general science professional development programme for all staff.
- An application from a cluster of schools or a formal Community of Learning.
- Nominating two teachers who are on Phase One at the same time.

GENERAL APPLICATION GUIDANCE

- Applications should be typed and completed electronically on the forms provided on the website and sent to stlp@royalsociety.org.nz.
- Please send your application as a PDF.
- If you have any questions about the Programme, please contact the Royal Society Te Apārangi at stlp@royalsociety.org.nz.

FILLING IN THE APPLICATION FORM

- The Nominated Teacher completes Section One and Section Three (If more than one nominated teacher is applying, each teacher should make an individual response to Sections One and Three).
- The Principal, Head of Science Department or Faculty, or another appropriate person completes 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 (whoever is most appropriate).
- 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.

REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING STATEMENTS

References

- The Nominated Teacher needs to provide the names and contact details of **two referees**.
- The Royal Society Te Apārangi may contact referees for a verbal supporting statement. The choice of a referee is important. Referees should be capable of judging the Nominated Teacher's competence and potential as a candidate and/or their **ability to take a leadership role**.

Verbal supporting statements

- The Principal or HOD and the Nominated Teacher will be contacted separately, by telephone for a statement also.

INFORMATION FOR SELECTED PARTICIPANT TEACHERS – PREPARATION FOR PHASE ONE

This information is included so teachers understand what will be required of them prior to commencement of Phase One of the Science Teaching Leadership Programme if they are selected. **These requirements will be completed during term 3 and 4, 2025.** If your application is successful, you will need to ensure your time is managed to successfully complete the below requirements.

- STLP co-ordinators will contact successful Participant Teachers by phone to discuss the Phase One programme, the teacher's areas of interest and development of the Programme Objectives and Expenses document.
- STLP co-ordinators will contact a host organisation, based on the phone discussion, and inform the participant teacher of a potential host.
- The Participant Teacher organises to meet with the potential host to discuss a placement programme that will develop their science knowledge and understanding of the Nature of Science.
- The Participant Teacher notifies the STLP co-ordinators that the meeting has occurred, that they are happy with the host and describes what steps are being taken to develop a Placement Programme.
- The Placement Objectives and Expenses Document (POE) is completed by the teacher and the STLP co-ordinators.
 - Teachers provide contact details – personal, school and host
 - Teacher and Host produce a Placement Programme (approx. ½ a page)
 - STLP co-ordinators produce indicative expenses for Phase One
- STLP co-ordinators set up a Dropbox and Facebook page for Participant Teacher group and provide information for the start of Phase One.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- There is **no opportunity**, during phase one of the Programme, for participant teachers to complete/participate in further academic study or take extended personal leave.
- Participant teachers are expected to attend **all** calendared events during Phase One.
- The Programme enables schools to employ a relief teacher to replace the nominated teacher on the Programme. Costs for nominated teacher are covered by the Programme during phase one.
- Teachers on the Programme are on **study leave** during Phase One. Their employment and conditions of service remain the same.
- Formal contracts between the Society, the host organisation, the school and the nominated teacher will be drawn up for the successful applicants.