



national  
learner  
panel

## Are you a learner in further education?

Do you believe that government and other organisations could improve their further education (FE) policies by listening to the learners who are affected by them?

Are you happy to express your opinions about what works, what doesn't – and make suggestions to government ministers and other people who make decisions?

Are you 16 or over and studying in FE in England? Will you be in any of the following kinds of learning from September 2009 to July 2010? A Levels (full or part time), NVQs (up to Level 3), an apprenticeship, work-based learning, informal adult learning, distance learning, or a sabbatical officer?

### Find out more about the National Learner Panel now!

You don't need to be an expert in how further education policy works – you just have to be an expert in what it's like to be a learner in FE in England and to bring your experiences with you! We will provide you with the training and support you need to feel confident in your role.

Last autumn 20 learners of all ages were selected to join the panel. We are now recruiting a similar number of panel members to take up a place for a year from this November – and we would like to hear from learners like you.

### Why should I get involved?

*"The NLP is crucial in promoting the importance of the learner voice in policy development. If you are passionate about learning, the NLP is a great vehicle to share that passion and make a difference."*

Graeme Brinded, NLP vice-chair 2008-09, work-based learner

*"I am very proud to be a member of the NLP. It has personally empowered me to express my views about what learners want."*

Sahr Yambasu, studying for the BTEC National Diploma, FE college

*"The panel involves the customer – the learner – bringing a fresh perspective from themselves, the ultimate beneficiary. It gives learners a voice where it matters and feeds into national initiatives and policymaking."*

Lynette Wieland, apprentice

### How do I apply?

**Step 1:** go to [www.excellencegateway.org.uk/nlp](http://www.excellencegateway.org.uk/nlp) to find out more about what is involved in being a panel member and download an application form and application notes.

**Step 2:** read through the National Learner Panel yearbook and decide if this is something you'd like to get involved with (you can download the yearbook from the National Learner Panel website link).

**Step 3:** read the application notes and then email your completed application form to [nlp@shm-ltd.co.uk](mailto:nlp@shm-ltd.co.uk) or by post to Claire Askam, SHM, 20-22 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4EB by 23 October 2009.

**We look forward to hearing from you!**