

## What are the NLN Materials?

- Free, interactive, multimedia e-learning resources.
- Small bite-sized chunks of learning, which take about 20-30 minutes to work through.
- Individual sections of topics from a wide range of curriculum areas.

## What learning materials are available?

Materials created during the first three rounds of development offer over 800 hours of flexible, interactive learning spread across a range of curriculum areas. A fourth round of development has recently got underway to create a further 110 hours of learning. These materials will be available during winter 2005-06. This fourth round is aimed at the adult and community learning sector, but will also be available for colleges.

### Round 1

#### Available NOW

- Amenity horticulture Level 2
- Art and design Levels 1 and 2
- Business studies Levels 1 and 2
- Floristry Level 2
- General basic education Level 1
- Generic science Level 1
- Hospitality and catering Level 2
- Health studies Levels 1-3
- Hair and beauty Level 2
- Key skills Levels 1-3
- Mathematics Level 2
- Wider key skills Levels 1-3

### Round 2

#### Available NOW

- Care, childcare and social care Levels 2 and 3
- Construction crafts Level 2
- Engineering Level 2
- Environmental conservation Level 3
- Health and safety Level 2
- Maths for engineering and computing Levels 1-3
- Performing arts Levels 1-3
- Sport and recreation Levels 2 and 3
- Travel and tourism Levels 1-3

### Round 3

#### Available NOW

- Basic skills: Literacy Level 1
- Basic skills: Numeracy Level 1 and entry level 3
- Biology with sports science Levels 2 and 3
- Catering Levels 3 and 4
- Construction Levels 2 and 3
- English Level 3 (AS/A2)
- General art and design Levels 1-4
- Geography Level 3 (AS/A2)
- Hair and beauty Levels 2 and 3
- History Level 3 (AS/A2)
- Key skills Level 3
- Maths Level 3 (AS/A2)
- Office administration Levels 1 and 2
- Physics Level 3 (AS/A2)
- Psychology Level 3 (AS/A2)
- Sociology Level 3

### Round 4

#### Available winter 2005-06

- English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) Entry levels 1-3
- ESOL Levels 1 and 2
- Family learning with pre-school children with opportunities for adults to progress to level 2
- Family learning with school age children with opportunities for adults to progress to level 2
- Learning to learn Entry levels 1-3
- Making learning work for you Levels 1 and 2
- Modern foreign languages (generic support) Levels 1 and 2

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# How do I use the materials in my teaching?

## **In class, materials may be used:**

- to visually demonstrate concepts that can be difficult or expensive to teach in the classroom
- to facilitate small-group work using case-study or problem-solving exercises.

## **For individual study, materials may be used:**

- as preparation for a class
- as a refresher or to help students catch up
- as a revision tool.

The materials give the learners things to do and a chance to think for themselves – and they are fun. There is plenty of in-built help if learners get stuck, but the materials are very intuitive. Some of the materials include educational games, which enable learning to take place without the student necessarily realising. The materials also support differentiation and the different learning styles of your students.

There are a range of approaches, but each 'learning object' contains some new learning (based on one or two learning objectives), a chance to practise and embed the new information, together with some form of assessment to check that the content has been understood and the learning outcome(s) achieved.

## What support is available?

- The NLN Materials website includes documentation for tutors, which provides advice for each subject, along with a number of case studies, example assignments and lesson plans.
- NLN ILT subject mentors will visit your college, free of charge, to demonstrate NLN Materials and advise tutors on the use of ILT in the classroom.
- 'Using the NLN Materials – A Practical Guide' is an online resource, offering staff advice in integrating the NLN Materials effectively into real-life teaching and learning situations.
- JISC Regional Support Centres (RSCs) arrange rights for college staff to download the materials, and also deal with queries.

## How do I access the materials?

**First check whether the materials have already been downloaded to your virtual learning environment (VLE) or intranet. If not, view them on the NLN Materials website. To use the materials, you will need to ask your technical team to download and store them.**

All the materials have been designed to be run through a VLE, although they can also be adapted to allow integration into a college intranet.

The materials are created by commercial developers, in partnership with subject matter experts, with the full involvement of a wide range of colleges. All the materials are fully tested by tutors and students and trialled for accessibility at the Royal National College in Hereford.

## Getting involved

**The NLN Materials Team would like to hear from anyone interested in contributing to the development of materials. Organisations are needed to act as trial institutions, providing valuable feedback on the materials at different stages of development. To find out more, send an email to: [materials@nl.ac.uk].**

To access the materials or find further information visit the NLN Materials website: [<http://www.nln.ac.uk/materials>]