Applications invited for online Aurora women's leadership programme



The University is committed to developing an institution where everyone can fulfil their full potential. As part of our investment in developing a diverse leadership, we offer colleagues places on a range of programmes. One such programme is Aurora.

[**Aurora**](https://www.advance-he.ac.uk/programmes-events/aurora) is Advance HE’s women only leadership development initiative. It aims to encourage women in higher education to think of themselves as leaders and to develop leadership skills. If you are starting to think of moving into a leadership role, and have some managerial experience, the programme offers an ideal opportunity for development.

Dr Carol McAnally, a Senior Business Relationship Manager in the Knowledge Transfer Centre is a previous delegate and says ‘Aurora afforded me the opportunity to explore what kind of leader I wanted to be, and how capable I am of achieving this.’

Suzy Tutchell, a lecturer in the Institute of Education, says of the programme: ‘Apart from the excellent delivery and content, it was really inspiring and empowering to meet such a wide range of other female academics and compare stories, experiences and discuss similar aspirations’.

To apply, you should be in a role up to and including Associate Professor or Professional and Managerial Grade 8.

Aurora is a mix of development days, action learning sets and online resources and includes mentoring by a senior member of University staff, as well as regular meetings with other University of Reading participants and the Vice-Chancellor to discuss emerging themes. **All events associated with this programme are currently planned to be online.** However, you may like to consider a location that you could attend, should the situation change.Travel costs are met from your departmental budget.

The programme will enable you to:

**Learn -** Tools, techniques and strategies from a team of leadership experts​, guest speakers & online resources

**Develop -** Leadership skills through experiential processes, reflection and conversations

**Network -** Meet delegates through five live online development days with interactive breakout sessions and two action learning set meetings

**Connect -** With a UK wide network and niche groups through a members only group

**Grow -** Supported by a mentor within UoR.

Aurora addresses core areas associated with future leadership success including:

* Understanding organisations and the sector;
* Developing leadership behaviours, skills and knowledge;
* Identifying and overcoming barriers and obstacles;
* Growing confidence and a leadership identity; and
* Building networks, coalitions, and support processes.

The dates of the sessions are shown below. As these are online events, you can attend any ‘location’ as long as you can attend all dates.

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| **Location** | **Introduction**  **and guest speaker** | **Identity, Impact and Voice** | **Core Leadership** | **Action Learning Set 1** | **Politics and Influence** | **Adaptive Leadership Skills** | **Action Learning Set 2** |
| **South of England** | |  | | --- | | 13-Oct-21 | | |  | | --- | | 20-Oct-21 | | |  | | --- | | 17-Nov-21 | | |  | | --- | | 08-Dec-21 | | |  | | --- | | 12-Jan-22 | | |  | | --- | | 09-Feb-22 | | |  | | --- | | 09-Mar-22 | |
| **Scotland** | |  | | --- | | 03-Nov-21 | | |  | | --- | | 10-Nov-21 | | |  | | --- | | 01-Dec-21 | | |  | | --- | | 12-Jan-22 | | |  | | --- | | 02-Feb-22 | | |  | | --- | | 02-Mar-22 | | |  | | --- | | 23-Mar-22 | |
| **Rep of Ireland and Northern Ireland** | |  | | --- | | 24-Nov-21 | | |  | | --- | | 01-Dec-21 | | |  | | --- | | 19-Jan-22 | | |  | | --- | | 09-Feb-22 | | |  | | --- | | 23-Mar-22 | | |  | | --- | | 27-Apr-22 | | |  | | --- | | 11-May-22 | |
| **Wales and South West England** | |  | | --- | | 13-Jan-22 | | |  | | --- | | 20-Jan-22 | | |  | | --- | | 24-Feb-22 | | |  | | --- | | 17-Mar-22 | | |  | | --- | | 07-Apr-22 | | |  | | --- | | 12-May-22 | | |  | | --- | | 16-Jun-22 | |
| **North of England** | |  | | --- | | 03-Feb-22 | | |  | | --- | | 10-Feb-22 | | |  | | --- | | 10-Mar-22 | | |  | | --- | | 24-Mar-22 | | |  | | --- | | 05-May-22 | | |  | | --- | | 26-May-22 | | |  | | --- | | 30-Jun-22 | |
| **The Midlands** | |  | | --- | | 15-Feb-22 | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | 01-Mar-22 |  | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | 22-Mar-22 | |  | | |  | | --- | | 26-Apr-22 | | |  | | --- | | 24-May-22 | | |  | | --- | | 21-Jun-22 | | |  | | --- | | 05-Jul-22 | |  | |
| **UK and Rep of Ireland** | |  | | --- | | 08-Mar-22 | | |  | | --- | | 15-Mar-22 | | |  | | --- | | 03-May-22 | | |  | | --- | | 17-May-22 | | |  | | --- | | 07-Jun-22 | | |  | | --- | | 28-Jun-22 | | |  | | --- | | 19-Jul-22 | |

If you are interested in applying for a place, you will need to complete the Aurora 2021 application form.

The application form should be sent to People Development ([**peopledevelopment@reading.ac.uk**](mailto:peopledevelopment@reading.ac.uk)) by **midday on** **Friday 6 August 2021**. We ask that this form remains as a Word document and is not sent as a PDF file.

Applicants will be informed by the end of August if they have been successful.

A panel is convened to consider which applicants will be given a sponsored place, and the decision of its members is final. As the programme is usually very popular, this does mean that unfortunately some applicants will be disappointed. Please note, it is not open to individuals to apply direct to Advance HE for a place, delegates must be sponsored by the University centrally.