What is Aurora?

Aurora is Advance HE's leadership development initiative for women. It is run as a unique partnership bringing together leadership experts and higher education institutions to take positive action to address the under-representation of women in leadership positions in the sector.

Led by a team of leadership experts, participants will explore four key areas associated with leadership success: Identity, Impact and Voice; Politics and Influence; Core Leadership Skills; Adaptive Leadership Skills.

Since its launch in 2013 more than **7,000 women** from nearly **200 different institutions** across the UK and Ireland have participated in Aurora.

More information can be found here

**Structure**

Aurora consists of five online delivery days and several other activities details of which are listed below.



**Key content days**

Led by a team of four leadership experts, participants will explore four key areas associated with leadership success: **Identity, Impact and Voice**; **Politics and Influence**; **Core Leadership Skills**; and **Adaptive Leadership Skills**.

Each of the five delivery days are held online, with delegates usually being drawn from a wide range of institutions in the same region. These days combine the best of conferences (prominent keynote speakers, open space technologies, outstanding networking opportunities, energy and dynamism) with the best of development workshops (interactivity, small group work, individual reflection, sharing of experiences and learning from role models). The development days are intended to be introductory events which will provide inspirational stories, guidance for growth of skills and knowledge, opportunities to share solutions to common problems and signposting for further learning.

**Introduction Webinar**

This introduction session will introduce participants to the overall aims and objectives of Aurora. Additionally, participants will be introduced to their action learning set groups and learn more about the online delivery platforms and how we will be using them to deliver Aurora.

**Aurora action learning sets**

The middle and final days of the programme are set aside for full-day action learning sets. Participants of each set will utilise the sessions to discuss their personal work-related challenges and seek support through the action learning process, to identify solutions and next steps.

**Self-directed learning (online)**

Throughout Aurora, four streams of self-directed learning that echo the subjects of the development days will be available online for participants to use and follow throughout the programme. The self-directed learning will include reading, reflection, activities and challenges and be provided via online links to specially commissioned materials, internet articles and websites and via an Aurora community mail list.

**Additional networking opportunities**

As part of the programme Advance HE will be creating a number of informal online networking opportunities focussed on bringing the wider cohort from all six locations together. This will include short informal virtual networking sessions focussed around a specific topic or piece of content.

**Ireland**

Intro Webinar: 24 November 2021 (10:00 - 12:40)  
Identity, Impact and Voice: 1 December 2021 (10:00 - 15:00)

Core Leadership: 19 January 2022 (10:00 - 15:00)

Action Learning Set 1: 9 February 2022  
Politics and Influence: 23 March 2022 (10:00 - 15:00)  
Adaptive Leadership: 27 April 2022 (10:00 - 15:00)  
Action Learning Set 2: 11 May 2021

You can find more detailed information on Aurora here <https://www.advance-he.ac.uk/programmes-events/aurora/aurora-faqs#General>