

Case Study

Aurora International

Aurora is an initiative bringing together leadership experts and higher education institutions to take positive action to address the under-representation of women in leadership positions in the HE sector.

The programme is aimed at change-makers based in international institutions who are looking to make systematic changes to develop female leaders on both an institutional and national level by creating a compelling business case for their organization.

Since the initiative began, 4,613 women from 171 institutions have participated in the Aurora Programme. Following the success of Aurora, Advance HE launched Aurora International in March 2018, opening up the programme to institutions outside the UK. The programme recently ran in the Republic of Ireland and pilot has now been undertaken in the Gulf States.

“Aurora created a safe place to think about how to do things and for personal reflection; to press pause and think about where I’m going. It was so supportive.”

-- Dr Michelle Millar, Senior Lecturer, National University of Ireland, Galway

“The Aurora programme has inspired me to think of myself as a leader. It has shown me that I can be a unique leader; that I can remain authentic to myself ... Aurora has encouraged me to start taking risks, daring to say ‘yes’ to things that terrify me. As I have taken small steps this has given me confidence to take bigger steps. Even before I have a formal leadership position, I can do leadership acts now.”

-- Aurora Participant 2017-18

About Advance HE

Advance HE was formed in March 2018, following the merger of the Equality Challenge Unit, the Higher Education Academy and the Leadership Foundation for Higher Education.

Our purpose is to support and enable higher education (HE) providers to put institutional strategy into practice for the benefit of students, staff and society.

We bring together HE-focused expertise in teaching and learning; equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI); leadership; and governance, to help you to deliver world-leading teaching, research and scholarship, your civic mission and student outcomes at your institution.

We do this through the provision of specialist knowledge and resource, externally recognised benchmarking and recognition schemes and a member-focused, collaborative approach.

We are driven by the strategic needs of HE. Through our passion for excellence we aim to create an inclusive culture that champions the continuous development of teaching, EDI, leadership and research. We use an evidence-based approach to identify what works, and develop practice-based solutions.

Our vision is that the world-class reputation and standing of HE is enhanced and recognised for transforming lives, enriching society and developing the economy for the better.