In this round table, it is our aim to recruit discussants from across a broad social cross-section and ideally with experience of international higher education, who self-identify as members of a professional representative or funding body engaged with higher education and related organisations. In the case of university staff, we will seek the participation of discussants working in different disciplinary or divisional and institutional settings, and/or from different professional service areas.

Each round table will involve discussants responding to pre-prepared stimulus materials, and specifically, a series of provocations related to the question of leadership in higher education. Discussants will be asked their views, for instance, on models of best practice for leadership in higher education, drawing especially on their dual experience of leading and being led.

Each round table, with a two-hour duration, will be conducted online via the Zoom platform and will be facilitated by at least two members of the research team. Round tables will be audio recorded with the advance permission of discussants. There will be a ten-minute break at around the mid-point.

All data generated from the round tables will be stored by Advance HE in a secure repository and with access restricted to the core Advance HE team and members of the research team conducting this project. All data will be deidentified. No attribution will be made in published materials developed from the data to individual participants or their affiliated institutions, without specific permission and agreement, and every effort will be made to conceal, where necessary, the identity of participants.

Each round table will be governed by a spirit of collegiality and mutual respect of the opinion and contribution of all discussants, who will be provided equal opportunity to express and have their views heard. In our efforts to ensure an open and inclusive dialogue we seek the input of a variety of discussants, who though engaged in similar roles may have different backgrounds and/or work in dissimilar professional contexts.

It is our expressed wish to engage with the broadest possible spectrum of perspectives.

Roundtables will be facilitated by Professors Richard Watermeyer and Richard Bolden, from University of Bristol and the University of the West of England respectively. Individual members of the Advance HE team may also attend the roundtables as non-participant observers, with full respect to the confidentiality of the process as described above.

Participation in the round tables is entirely voluntary. Discussants are entitled to withdraw their participation at any stage without reason.

We are anticipating significant demand for round table participation and would, therefore, advise interested parties in early registration of interest.

All further questions pertaining to round table participation may be directed to Professor Richard Watermeyer at: richard.watermeyer@bristol.ac.uk