

Leeds Executive
Leadership
Apprenticeship
(LELA)
Executive Education



Message from the Programme Director

The Leeds Executive Leadership Apprenticeship (LELA) empowers learners to make a real, long-lasting impact within their organisation and helps them to thrive in an ever-evolving business landscape.

Whether you are looking to develop as a leader, get up to speed with the latest management concepts, or develop your capability to lead people through change within your organisation, our executive leadership programme gives you the knowledge and practical learning you will need to transform and grow your business.

The Leeds Executive Leadership Apprenticeship (LELA) programme carefully blends online study with engaging campus workshops designed for busy professionals. It is delivered by academic and business practitioners, with dedicated senior skills coaches on hand to sharpen your leadership capabilities.

The programme will not only provide you with invaluable knowledge but also the opportunity to study in a diverse cohort, support your personal development and help you build a network of peers across public, private and third party sectors and industries, enriching your professional journey.

Following successful completion of your programme, you will be eligible to apply for a Master's in Executive Leadership at the University of Leeds.

Welcome to LELA.



Mr Andrew Lewis
Apprenticeship
Programme Director



Over
300

learners have completed the programme since 2022



1 in 4

learners have been promoted in their organisation while on the LELA programme



1 in 4

learners choose to continue their development with the Executive Leadership MSc



Over 95%

of learners achieve a distinction from the programme

About the programme

In a constantly changing world, it is essential for businesses to find ways to retain and develop their high-performing staff to help future-proof their business.

LELA offers organisations an ideal levy-funded and nationally recognized standard of excellence leadership development programme where participants can gain a level 7 apprenticeship qualification.

Throughout the 24-month programme, learners will gain practical leadership and management capabilities that they can apply immediately in the workplace.

By the end of the programme, learners will be:

- Independent and strategic thinkers with the ability to integrate knowledge within and across business disciplines
- Reflective practitioners with the skills to critically evaluate problems using appropriate concepts, theories and models
- Effective leaders who can integrate theory with experience to lead complex strategic organisational change appreciating the need for continuous professional development
- Innovative entrepreneurs who can realise opportunities and develop innovative strategies to solve problems and make strategic decisions
- Strategic communicators who can demonstrate cultural sensitivity and a willingness to solve problems involving teamwork and group activities within diverse environments
- Ethical leaders and socially responsible decision-makers

Who is it for?

The programme is suited for those working in management roles within an organisation, with responsibility for teams, people, budgets or other key areas of organisational accountability.

They must have at least three years of leadership experience. Learners do not require an undergraduate degree to participate in this programme.

How much does it cost?

The Leeds Executive Leadership Apprenticeship is open to businesses of all sizes. The programme is funded through the government's Apprenticeship Levy scheme, subject to eligibility and availability.

If you are part of a large company that pays the UK apprenticeship levy, the fees will be paid in full by the levy scheme. If you are an SME, contact [Kristen Cabrera-Uhl](#) to learn more about your funding options.

[Visit our website for further details →](#)



Programme overview

Programme structure

- 24-month programme
- Seven distinct learning blocks, each last eight weeks
- Each learning block concludes with an assessment: typically a 2,000 word written assignment
- Assignments are designed to be relevant to learners' personal work experience
- Portfolio of evidence compiled throughout course to support in final assessment
- Final external assessment overseen by CMI: a 4,000 word live business case relevant to the employee's own work

Commitments

Participants require 20% of their time for 'Of the Job' learning time

- Not necessarily a day a week but time as required to learn, research, and shadow colleagues
- Commitment to attend all face-to-face workshops, webinars and review meetings

Programme support

- Pre-induction manager/mentor meetings
- Dedicated skills coaches
- Study support sessions and online drop-ins
- Quarterly review meetings between each apprentice, their skills coach and mentor
- End point assessment workshops
- Dedicated learning platform
- Access to Leeds University Business School resources

Key benefits for your organisation

- More highly skilled, qualified leaders
- Retaining talent, enhanced succession planning and growing your leadership pipeline
- Immediate, tangible and positive changes
- Increased resilience, capability and confidence in leaders
- More strategic and collaborative working in a post-pandemic world
- Developing leaders with greater impact on culture
- Utilising the Apprenticeship Levy

Key benefits for the learner

- Gain a Level 7 Executive Leadership Apprenticeship from the University of Leeds
- New knowledge and skills
- Greater confidence and personal impact
- Professional peer network
- Career development
- Chartered status with the Chartered Management Institute (CMI)
- Route to a Masters in Executive Leadership



Executive Education at Leeds University Business School

Leeds University Business School is a faculty of the University of Leeds, one of the leading higher education institutions in the UK and a member of the prestigious Russell Group of research-intensive UK universities.

Our specialist Executive Education programmes equip business leaders to anticipate and adapt to the challenges ahead.

Our specialist Executive Education programmes are tailored for individual learners or bespoke designed for organisations. Whether participants are developing leadership skills, staying up-to-date with the latest thinking, or preparing for the next phase of their careers, our programmes provide the necessary knowledge and skills to excel. Participants gain knowledge and insights directly informed by real-world business practices, which they can immediately apply in their roles. As part of our learning community, there are many opportunities to network and learn from others, even beyond your current sector.



Our Participants

We are pleased to work with a number of organisations that support their employees to undertake the Leadership Apprenticeship, including Leeds Teaching NHS Trust, Emerald Publishing, West Yorkshire Combined Authority, Network Rail and many others from across the Leeds City region and beyond.

Learner case studies

“For people with the drive to learn, who are looking to accelerate their development towards a senior leadership position, I think the Executive Leadership apprenticeship provides a great standard of education and a solid framework to build rounded leaders.”

Ben Ingamells

Senior Operations Manager at Covéa Insurance
[Read more →](#)

“There were plenty of courses on offer focussing on NHS management, but I wanted to explore skills, ideas and areas that were relevant to the NHS but outside of the NHS environment.”

Dr Sara Matley

Consultant Clinical Psychologist at NHS

[Read more →](#)

[Hear more from our alumni →](#)



Applying to the Leeds Executive Leadership Apprenticeship programme

Contact us

Kristen Cabrera-Uhl
ExecEd@leeds.ac.uk



Visit our website →

Application procedure

1. Please complete the application form.
This will be reviewed for eligibility and suitability.
2. View the commitments, expectations, and entry requirements for this programme.
3. You will be invited to upload various supporting documents to a secure portal.
4. Once all the paperwork has been uploaded you will be invited to a formal telephone interview.
5. A provisional offer of a place will only be made after a successful interview.
6. Your place on the programme will only be made available to you upon completion of the legal apprenticeship paperwork and procedures by your employer.

Fees

- The fees of £14,000 will be paid by your employer organisation through the UK Apprenticeship Levy Scheme, subject to eligibility and availability.
- If you are employed by a large company which pays the UK apprenticeship levy the fees will be paid in full by the levy scheme, once your employer has registered with the Digital Apprenticeship Portal and completed and signed the formal written contract with the University of Leeds. Your place will only be made available to you upon completion of the formal procedures.
- If you are employed by an SME, they can apply to reserve funding through the UK Apprenticeship levy scheme, but places are limited. The company will have to pay 5% of the cost of the fees. 95% of the fees will be paid in full by the levy scheme, once your employer has registered with the Digital Apprenticeship Portal and completed and signed the formal written contract with the University of Leeds. Your place will only be made available to you upon completion of the formal procedures.



Programme at a glance

Intake	Multiple cohorts through the year
Application deadlines	Applications for each cohort are due at least 6 weeks before the start date. However, spaces are on a first-come, first-serve basis, so it is encouraged to apply early to guarantee your space.
Location	University of Leeds campus / online
Duration	24 months total (18 months taught and 6 months End Point Assessment)
Course fees	£14,000 per participant, funded by the Apprenticeship Levy. *Optional top up to Masters (MSc in Executive Leadership with additional £4,200 fees).
Entry requirements	<p>Meet one of the three degree and experience requirements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A 2:2 honours degree or above and a minimum of three years of management experience2. Degree or equivalent professional qualification, plus five years management experience3. No degree, but five years' management experience, with strong and consistent career progression and achievement <p>A non-standard entry is available to support those learners without a degree</p>
Professional experience	A minimum of 3 years' work experience in a leadership and management position
Accreditation	Level 7 Executive Leadership Apprenticeship, Chartered status with the Chartered Management Institute (CMI)
Delivery	Face-to-face workshops, group learning, reflective discussion, presentations, online tutorials one-to-one coaching, self-guided study