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The Association of Heads of Administration is foremost a membership organisation providing networking, development and access to resources for its senior staff members. AHUA provides a supportive space for sharing and learning for senior professionals and deploys the collective knowledge and experience of its membership to build authentic and credible advocacy for change and policy development. Conscious of value for our members in these financially constrained times, we are leveraging our advocacy, networking and development work to directly address the most important contextual issues of the day for what we believe is a comparatively modest affiliation fee (£1,535 per year).

Developing the competencies of current and future members

The rapid rate of change in our operating environment needs Registrars, COO's and University Secretaries to have access to market-leading and tailored development. Our offer includes high-specification programmes that grow practitioners' networks, developing a deeper understanding of the operating context and skills necessary to lead complex and multifaceted change. We have provided coaches available at preferential rates, subsidised action learning, workshops and conferences available for current members as well as programmes to cultivate the pipeline of future professionals. Our development programmes receive consistently positive feedback and have a strong track record of delegate progression.

Advocating and influencing sector efficiency

The Association, like the sector, has shifted focus to issues of transformation and sustainability as pressure on institutions becomes increasingly widely and deeply felt. Our current priority for advocacy work is supporting the UUK taskforce directly contributing to its stewardship and thinking, including AHUA-led projects which complement the taskforce's work. We are leading the development of an open-source organisational efficiency maturity assessment that will launch in 2025/26, cited by the taskforce, as a tangible resource supporting the effective governance and administration of universities. Through regular engagement with sector bodies, fellow professional associations and government departments, we have successfully influenced government decisions on inflationary increases to fees; contributed to the two OfS reviews to reduce regulatory burden; and informed policy development on research funding and international student status amongst other relevant issues. We have also supported 'The Big Conversation' with UUK, CUC, Advance HE, Guild HE and IHE exploring the future of governance. Submissions from those events will be submitted to the CUC Governance Review Group.

Networking our members and strengthening the community

Professional Associations have a particularly key role in these times helping create positive, empowering and supportive communities of like-minded professionals. Participation in our regional networks is growing partly as a result of the quality of information cascaded through them from UUK, our legal sponsors Shakespeare Martineau and other key sector bodies. We provide accessible action learning sets, online exchanges and other forums to convene people around shared problems and opportunities or to share best practice.

Work with us

We are proud of the way we work for and with our members who come from 140 UK and Irish Higher Education institutions and are supported by a range of international associate members. Our ability to support and leverage their involvement in the design and delivery of our work means we remain cost effective and also deliver an authentic institutional voice in our advocacy, networking and development work. Thanks to all our members for being part of everything we achieve, we look forward to working with you in future.

140 Universities Affiliated



214 Member Representatives

130 Affiliated Universities engaged with an AHUA activity

546 Member Representatives engaged with an AHUA activity

221 Registrations for regional meetings and the Scottish secretaries group



122 Delegates attended an AHUA conference

"A good chance to meet colleagues and to hear about the work of AHUA and how we can benefit and to make connections"

AHUA Autumn Conference 2024



"The use of different lenses to work through problems. My self-awareness and belief has increased massively"

AHUA PSDP Programme

This year the AHUA Executive committee, board and our members have:

Successfully advocated for Government to end the freeze on fees

Approved a new reformed governance model for OIA


Submitted a membership response to the OfS strategy review

Collaborated on 'The Big Conversation' generating insight for a sector governance review

Commissioned an academic research project with Nottingham Business School to gain insights into membership diversity

Supported the UUK efficiency and transformation taskforce including commissioning a sector efficiency toolkit

 44 People involved in our Reciprocal Mentoring pilots

 38 Members on AHUA action learning sets & coaching

 33 Members trained and developed on AHUA Governance Programmes

 16 Professional services heads developed on a Directors Development Programme

 16 Aspiring registrars developed on our Future Leaders Programme

 64 Percentage increase in blogs published by members & associates

Membership secures access to regional meetings, national conferences, free online workshops, development programmes, action learning, monthly newsletters with key sector information and the option to stand for and vote on which members will serve as our national executive and board.



**TWO CONFERENCES
HELD ANNUALLY**



**REGIONAL MEETINGS
IN THE UK**



**MONTHLY
E-NEWSLETTER**



**PRIVATE ONLINE
DISCUSSION FORUM**



**PERSONAL
DEVELOPMENT
OPPORTUNITIES**



**OPPORTUNITY TO
JOIN NATIONAL
WORKING GROUPS**



**INPUT TO LIAISON
MEETINGS WITH
POLICY MAKERS**



**ELIGIBILITY TO JOIN
THE CIVIL SERVICE
UNION, THE FDA**

AHUA membership is institutional and open to higher education institutions in the UK and Republic of Ireland; an Associate Membership is available to HEI's in other countries.

Each institution can have up to 2 member representatives who should be amongst the most senior leaders responsible for governance and operations (commonly COO's, Registrars or Secretaries).