



The Association of Heads of University Administration

# AHUA Learning Sets

learning

The AHUA is delighted to offer its members the opportunity to become a member of a learning set.



*'Meeting such delightful people through the learning set has helped me to see the real benefits of AHUA membership and enabled me to build a strong network. I have been able to draw on a range of professional experiences and backgrounds in discussing live issues with supportive and expert colleagues.'*

**Louise Nadal,**  
Head of Governance  
and Legal Services,  
University of East London



*'I have found the interactions with the members of my set, who are now some three years later my friends, utterly invaluable. It's rare that one can be completely open about an issue which one is struggling to get to grips with in a meaningful way but the breadth of experience which my colleagues bring and the fact that they bring that experience from other organisations with a completely impartial view of the context, has been the most important element in my development in recent years.'*

**Andrew Young,**  
Head of Administration  
and Chief Operating Officer, LSE



*'The Learning Set provided a confidential sounding board of peers from different institutions, all willing to share the benefits of their own experience. Five years into the role, I am still applying the knowledge I gained from being a member of the Learning Set and still sharing experiences with colleagues who were part of it.'*

**Anne Miller,**  
Registrar,  
University of Buckingham

Learning sets, or 'action' learning sets as they are often called, bring together a small group of peers to work together on real issues, offering challenge and support to each other through an ongoing process of learning and reflection.

### What are we offering?

AHUA members have the opportunity to become a member of a learning set, facilitated by a development professional. Sets usually meet on a regular basis (approximately every two months) for five meetings and have six to eight members. Learning set membership is heavily subsidised by the AHUA and members receive a discount of over 50%.

### Why learning sets?

The role of Registrar, COO or University Secretary is high profile and very challenging. The AHUA recognises the broad and demanding activities and relationships this role navigates and as such, believes the opportunity to receive independent feedback and input from a group of peers is invaluable.

The members of the set work together on 'live issues' that they bring to the sessions offering challenge and support to each other in the consideration of each issue. It is a collaborative learning approach which builds on the relationship between experience (action) and reflection. It does not matter whether members have encountered the specific issues presented by others before; the focus is on helping the 'presenter' (the person bringing the issue) to think through a variety of options, and perhaps reach a conclusion.

Benefits include increased levels of self-awareness, motivation and confidence, leading to a greater readiness to handle the challenges that arise. The sets also offer the opportunity to create a network of peers who typically continue to offer one another support and advice long after the formal series of sessions has ended.

In order to support colleagues in their professional development, the AHUA has established a team of learning set facilitators who have extensive experience of working with senior managers in the HE sector as well as in private and other public sector organisations.

### Learning set fee

£595

### Next steps

If you wish to take advantage of this opportunity, please contact Catherine Webb, AHUA Executive Secretary by e-mail at [c.f.webb@ahua.ac.uk](mailto:c.f.webb@ahua.ac.uk) or by phone on 0161 275 8095.



## What members have said...

*'I found that being part of a learning set created the time and space to reflect, share experiences and learn, in a way that could never have been achieved in the midst of a hectic normal working day/life. The value of doing this with a small group of trusted colleagues cannot be underestimated. It has made me a better person – professionally and personally.'*

**Patrick Hackett**, Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of Liverpool

*'I have been consistently impressed by the quality of insight and experience my fellow members have brought to the discussions. The fact that we are continuing to meet two years after the initial facilitated sessions came to an end is testament to the fact that we have all found them invaluable.'*

**Rex Knight**,  
Vice-Provost (Operations),  
UCL

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