

Key dates and format

2026-27 Extend will accommodate 18 participants, and will comprise of two modules, each consisting of 5 online taught sessions on the following provisional dates, lasting 3 – 4 hours, and 1 opportunity to meet with the rest of the cohort in-person for learning and reflection.

- Module One, September – October 2026:
 - Wednesday 16 September 2026
 - Wednesday 23 September 2026
 - Wednesday 30 September 2026
 - Wednesday 7 October 2026
 - Monday 12 – Wednesday 14 October 2026 [in-person event: The Gathering]*
 - Wednesday 21 October 2026
- Peer Coaching, November – December 2026:
 - Following introductory coaching training during Module One, it is an expectation that participants self-organise 3 online sessions in set groups, typically in November and December, before Module Two commences.
- Module Two, January – February 2027:
 - Wednesday 20 January 2027
 - Wednesday 27 January 2027
 - Wednesday 3 February 2027
 - Wednesday 10 February 2027 [in-person event: Extend Celebration]*
 - Wednesday 17 February 2027
 - Wednesday 24 February 2027

Optional in-person events and opportunities:

- **Islands of Sanity, Engage Gathering 2026, 12-14 October 2026**
 - Engage’s annual conference will take place in Coventry, England. Extend participants are entitled to free tickets to attend this to supplement their learning on the course and provide an opportunity to meet with other cohort members. This is optional, and participants may choose to attend all, none or part of the conference programme.
 - Alternatively, as September – November is ‘conference season’ in the cultural sector, we encourage cohort members to consider signing up to attend conferences relevant to their artform or specialism during this segment of the course.
- **Extend Celebration, 10 February 2027**
 - The Extend cohort will network, learn and explore together through facilitated activities. This is provisionally planned to take place in Yorkshire. Attendance is optional but encouraged. More details on the event will be shared with selected participants ahead of the course commencement.
 - More information about support available to access in-person activities is detailed in our other pages.

Before applying, please ensure that you are available on the above dates and note any issues with availability in your application. **Participants are required to attend the entire duration of the online programme sessions**, unless there are prior declared exceptional circumstances.

Programme aims

- To support mid-career engagement, learning, and participation colleagues within the arts and cultural sectors to progress on their own terms, to assume leadership roles and responsibilities.
- To enhance the audience and participant experience by increasing the influence of engagement colleagues in strategic development and programming in the arts and cultural sectors.
- To encourage a diverse range of applicants to Extend and to contribute to increasing the diversity of leadership in the arts and cultural sectors.
- To support established and aspiring leaders to develop and implement knowledge and confidence in understanding leadership approaches.

- To create an inclusive environment which encourages participants to find peer support and practice coaching skills.