

The Being a Leader Course is unlike most leadership programmes. It will leave you with the power to actually shape the future. In most leadership courses you end up with some useful tips, models and insights but ultimately with little actual **access** to effective leadership. Over the course of fourteen weekly sessions, you will find yourself living in a **New World of Leadership**, able to

"I am more confident in my work, I approach it with fewer mental 'tangles' and as a result have become more effective and efficient in what I do. Hands down, this is the best training I have accessed in my whole career."

make futures happen that weren't going to happen anyway: for yourself, for your career, in your relationships with other people, and, for the communities in which you live and work.

In the first session of this online course, the tutors, Susie Miles and Nicholas Merton, make a bold promise that by the end of the course you will be **being** a leader and exercising

"The course opened up so many ideas to me that I didn't even know I was missing and has made such an impact on my life."

leadership effectively, as your natural self-expression.

Based on a foundation of **integrity, authenticity, being up to something bigger than yourself, and being cause in the matter of your life**, this course will support you in discovering, practising, and mastering a unique and powerful Conversational Domain which enables you to produce breakthroughs in your confidence, effectiveness and power as a leader.

The Course is offered annually at UCLA and in universities as diverse as Canada, Kenya, Switzerland and Vietnam. The University of Manchester is pioneering this refreshing and powerful leadership training in the UK. The course is offered to all PGRs in the Faculty of Humanities, and it will run from 26 February to 11 June 2026.

"...it came at exactly the right time for me in my PHD journey. I was struggling with many things and this course helped me win quite a few battles. I realise fully now what I am standing for, what I can promise myself and others, and importantly, what I am not prepared to accept. Ultimately, it helped me realise that I have the power to lead."

Course Dates and Times (all online)

Informal Information Session with the Course Tutors		Thursday 29 January, 10 – 11am Teams	
Application Deadline		Thursday 12 February	
Session Times		Thursdays, 10am – 1pm Note: Sessions 6 & 14 (April 16 & June 11) will be 10 - 3pm	
Feb/March	Feb 26 March 5, 12, 19, 26	April	16, 23, 30
May	7, 14, 21, 28	June	4, 11

"I didn't want this course to end."

Course Objectives

1. Effective listening.
2. A powerful foundation for leadership:
 - a. Being a Person of Integrity
 - b. Being Authentic
 - c. Being Cause in the Matter of your Life, and
 - d. Being up to Something Bigger than Yourself.
3. Master a new Contextual Framework for Being a Leader and Exercising Leadership Effectively as your Natural Self-Expression.
4. Free yourself from your Perceptual and Functional Constraints.
5. Master a new Conversational Domain for Being a Leader and Exercising Leadership effectively.

Tutors

Nicholas Merton: Nicholas is an Independent Consultant who has led ontological leadership courses and other transformational courses since the early 1990s.

Susie Miles: Susie is Professor Emerita in the Manchester Institute of Education.

She completed the Being a Leader course at UCLA in 2019 and is on the editorial board of '[Turning Toward Being: The Journal of Ontological Inquiry in Education](#)'.

Please Note

Given this Course is designed to leave you **actually Being a Leader** (rather than knowing more about leadership) it is inevitable that you will at times be confronting the ways of being that you already have, that are in the way of you actually being an effective leader. This can be uncomfortable at times. Before you register for this Course, please get clear with yourself that whatever happens, you will honour your commitment to yourself and to the Course. A key to making a future happen that wasn't going to happen anyway is not to give up half-way through. Susie and Nicholas will do everything they can so that this course is a success for you.

Teaching and Learning Methods

This course places a fundamental emphasis on you **discovering for yourself what is presented**. Unlike courses in which you have participated before, this one is not about understanding, remembering, and writing down what is presented at each session. Instead, you will be engaging with a challenging ontological / phenomenological inquiry to gain **direct access** to being a leader and exercising leadership.

Our unique presentation method enables you to discover the limitations of your everyday frames of reference and world view, leaving you, after every session, with a new-found freedom and power to impact your daily life. The sessions are lively, rigorously designed and involve profound conversations in pairs, between members of the group and the tutors, and with weekly follow-up practical tasks. To assist you in discovering for yourself each aspect of what is presented, you will also design and complete a project in which you will make something happen that wasn't going to happen anyway.

Your weekly time commitment includes 12 3-hour online sessions (and two 5-hour online sessions) on Thursday mornings; weekly tasks (approximately 1-1.5 hours per week) which can be worked on in smaller groups; and some reading assignments.

If you have any questions, please email Susie at susie.miles@manchester.ac.uk.

To apply for a place please complete the form [here](#).