

Leading with Character is a groundbreaking 30-day leadership course that places character at the forefront of good leadership.

The course

Developed in collaboration between Legatum and the Oxford Character Project, at the University of Oxford, and the Human Flourishing Program, at the Institute for Quantitative Social Sciences at Harvard University, this course expands access to the best leadership development thinking and practise to a global audience.

The central conviction of the course is that character is critical to leadership effectiveness, across industries, and at every level, including the highest levels of leadership. Combining insights from leading leadership thinkers such as Dr. Adam Grant and Dr. Amy Edmonson, with prominent leaders such as Hubert Joly and Bear Grylls, among others, this course will help seasoned executives, emerging managers, and leaders of all kinds to become exceptional leaders of character.



A joint initiative of









Why is it needed?

In today's rapidly changing, uncertain, and interconnected world, the demand for leaders of character is more vital than ever. At the heart of every remarkable leader lies an unwavering foundation of character – a steadfast commitment to courage, love, and hope. By embodying integrity, wisdom, and compassion, such leaders build trust, leading to deeper engagement and commitment among followers and stakeholders.

Character, though critical, often remains overlooked in leadership development. Most leadership theories lack an in-depth discussion on character and therefore miss out on the foundational principle that a leader's essence shapes their actions. Instead, most leadership development programmes emphasise specific, tactical skills, rather than the growth of the whole person.

Leading with Character addresses this gap by incorporating proven strategies for intentional character development in a leadership journey, strengthening leaders' ability to lead in dynamic, evolving contexts.

Course format

The course has four central modules, each moving from research and practitioner insight to practical exercises that focus on habit development. Each module is designed with two to three hours of interactive online content followed by practical exercises.

Course Overview



Character: The heart of good leadership

- Explore the fundamentals of Leading with Character
- Consider our leadership philosophy
- Experience the transformative power of character
- Discover how to develop character
- Introduce yourself to fellow learners from across the globe



Purpose: Clarify your leadership direction and drive

- Begin with the essential question: "Why do you lead?"
- Gain insights from purpose-driven leaders
- · Identify your unique personal purpose



Courage: Fortify your commitment to courageous action

- Understand the pivotal role of courage and self-leadership
- Explore the diverse forms of courage
- Identify your personal values
- Reflect on your experiences of acting in alignment with your values
- Ground your courage in humility



Love: Cultivate the relational skills to lead with love

- Consider a relational approach to leadership
- Investigate the virtue of generative love in leadership
- Practise being a giver, not a taker
- Foster a culture of love with psychological safety
- Reflect on your experiences with high-performing teams
- · Hone your skills in effective listening



Hope: Fuel your pursuit of a brighter future

- Recognise the significance of hope in sustaining long-term goals
- Draw inspiration from leaders who have upheld hope in adversity
- Become a beacon of hope for others
- Explore the role of practical wisdom in steering present actions toward future horizons



Onward: Plan for ongoing growth and purposeful leadership

- Find renewed inspiration to commit to continuous leadership in your unique context
- Craft a personalised plan to integrate character development into your daily life
- Celebrate your course completion







