

ACCELERATE 2027

Application Form

We have been delighted with the feedback we have received from the last nine cohorts; and despite the significant challenges of the last years, Accelerate continues to be seen as an essential development programme for those leaders who are overseeing or managing complex change programmes. We are pleased to be launching the tenth year of our Accelerate programme, delivered in partnership with Newton. Accelerate supports senior leaders (working at the director or assistant director level) to develop the leadership capabilities required to oversee, or manage teams to deliver complex transformational change. The programme, which involves four short residential modules over a 10-month period, starts in March every year.

To download the course flyer with more information about content, deadlines and the course schedule, please [click here](#). Please note that this pdf version of the application form is meant for reference only; we will only accept applications completed via the online form and not those with a pdf version. The application form is comprised of four sections:

1. **The candidate's personal statement;** outlining why you feel you are the right person for this programme and any areas which you are looking to develop;
2. **The candidate's project outline;** including details of the project or projects which are being delivered by members of your senior team or for which you have direct accountability;
3. **The candidate's line manager support statement;**
4. **Equality and Diversity monitoring form.**

The deadline for applications is Friday, 18th December 2026. Interviews will be held on the 20th and 21st of January 2026. Please hold both of these dates to be available should you be selected for interview. Let us know in the application email if you require any special arrangements to be made for the interview. To know more about previous cohorts' experiences, please visit our latest cohort report [here](#). For any other queries or for more information, please contact programmes@adass.org.uk.

Your details

1 Applicant Full Name*

2 Job Title*

3 Email*

4 Local Authority*

5 Region*

- East
- East Midlands

- London
- North East
- North West
- South East
- South West
- West Midlands
- Yorkshire and Humber

6 How did you hear about Accelerate?*

- ADASS Website / Members e-bulletin
- Referred by a DASS
- Referred by a colleague
- Google / search engine
- Other

Personal Statement

Please supply a personal statement outlining why you feel you are the right person for this programme and any areas which you are looking to develop.

7 Personal Statement* (max 4,000 characters = approx 600 words)

Project Proposal

During the Accelerate programme, participants will rapidly develop their capability to lead their teams to deliver effective, complex, strategic and operational change.

Each participant will therefore need to be able to bring the detail of one or – probably in the case of DASS applicants – multiple programmes to apply throughout the course.

Your application should include details of the project or projects which are being delivered by members of your senior team or for which you have direct accountability.

The project or projects should:

- Have a clearly articulated purpose that is aligned with national and local priorities;
- Be of sufficient scale, political profile and complexity whilst also necessitating cultural change;
- Last 6–18 months in duration;
- Be important and supported within your organisation, and have a senior sponsor.

To enable this genuinely collaborative style of learning the sessions will be run under the Chatham House Rule. This will also apply to the trainers and facilitators.

8 Project proposal* (max 4,000 characters = approx 600 words)

Line Manager Support Statement

Please ask your line manager (in most cases this is likely to be your DASS or Chief Executive) to:

- I. Confirm their support for your application;

II. Say why they think you demonstrate the essential criteria outlined above, and;

III. Why they think this programme will be of benefit to your development.

9 Line manager support statement* (max 1,500 characters = approx 200 words)

10 Are you attending or likely to attend another training programme next year? If so, please provide further detail below

Signatures

11 Applicant Signature*

Please type your name below as confirmation of your application.

12 Date*

13 Line Manager Full Name*

14 Line Manager Job Title*

15 Line Manager Signature*

Please ensure you have your Line Manager's consent for the application and type their name below as confirmation.

Equality and Diversity Monitoring Form

16 What age group do you belong to? Please select one box.*

- 18-25
- 26-35
- 36-45
- 46-55
- 56-65
- 70+

Disability

Under the Equality Act 2010, a person is considered to have a disability if she/he has a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on her/his ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

17 Do you consider yourself to have a disability?*

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to disclose

18 ADASS accepts the social model of disability. However, in order to be able to identify and respond to your specific needs, it is important that we know what kind of disability you have. Please select the option that best represents you.

If none of the categories applies, please select 'other'. If you do not wish to disclose this information, please select the appropriate option. Please skip this question if you have responded 'no' to the previous one.

- Sensory Impairment
- Physical Impairment
- Long-term illness or condition
- Learning disability/difficulty
- Mental Health condition
- Prefer not to disclose
- Other

19 If you have any access requirements for the interview or the modules, please state below.

Ethnicity

20 Please select the box that best describes your ethnic group.

- White – British (to include Northern Ireland)
- White – Irish
- White – Gipsy or Irish Traveler
- White – European
- White – Other
- Black or Black British – Caribbean
- Black or Black British – African
- Black or Black British – Other
- Asian or Asian British – Indian
- Asian or Asian British – Pakistani
- Asian or Asian British – Bangladeshi
- Asian or Asian British – Chinese
- Asian or Asian British – Other
- Mixed – White & Black Caribbean
- Mixed – White & Black African
- Mixed – White & Asian
- Mixed – Other
- Other – Ethnic identity not known
- Other – Do not wish to disclose

Gender

Please select the box that best describes you. If you are undergoing the process of gender reassignment, please tick the box that applies to your future gender

21 What gender do you identify with?*

- Female
- Male
- Non-binary
- Prefer not to disclose

22 Do you live and work in a gender other than that assigned at birth?*

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to disclose

23 How would you describe your sexuality?*

- Heterosexual
- Gay Man
- Gay Woman / Lesbian
- Bisexual
- Asexual
- Pansexual
- Other
- Prefer not to disclose

Religion and Caring Responsibilities

24 Religion*

- Christian
- Muslim
- Atheist
- Jewish
- Hindu
- Sikh
- Buddhist
- Other
- Prefer not to disclose

25 Do you have caring responsibilities?*

- None
- Primary carer of a child / children (under 18)
- Primary carer of a disabled child / children (under 18)
- Primary carer of disabled adult (18 and over)
- Primary carer of older person (over 65)
- Secondary carer (another person carries out the main caring role)
- Prefer not to disclose
- Other