

Title of programme: ACCEL - Academy for Churchill College Enterprise and Leadership, Churchill College

Programme description

The overall *Churchill Leadership Academy* is intended to create a platform for students at Churchill College to develop and practice professional and leadership skills through a variety of mechanisms, including mentorship, skills development workshops and group and individual projects.

The *STEM professional skills and leadership workshops* are one element of the programme which are intended to create the space for students to practice core capabilities in the areas of:

- ♦ Communication
- ♦ Teamwork
- ♦ Empathy
- ♦ Problem-solving

Logistical information

- ♦ Dates: 3 November 2025 - 9 March 2026
- ♦ Programme length: 17 weeks
- ♦ Number of participants: 20 (undergraduate and postgraduate students)
- ♦ Location: Møller institute
- ♦ Hours of learning: 12 hours
 - In-person: 9 hours
 - Self-paced: 3 hours

Target audience

- ♦ Undergraduate engineering and STEM students, including natural science, chemical engineers (2nd and 3rd years)
- ♦ Engineering postgraduate students (2nd or 3rd years)
- ♦ Selected through process of application and recommendation by Director of Studies

Programme description

Aims of programme

- ♦ The aim of this program is to equip undergraduate and postgraduate students with essential communication skills, emotional intelligence awareness, and leadership abilities. Through a series of interactive workshops, students will develop self-awareness and communication skills, enhancing their ability to work effectively within teams, give and receive feedback, and engage in meaningful networking. By improving confidence in pitching ideas and influencing others, the program prepares participants for both immediate academic success and future professional challenges in leadership roles.

Learning objectives

Learning objective	Session related to learning objective
♦ <i>Introduce participants to their natural behaviours, leadership styles, and personal strengths through self-reflection and constructive feedback.</i>	<i>Session 1. Beginning with Purpose: Developing Teamwork and exploring Leadership</i> <i>Session 2. Impactful Leadership: Self-awareness</i> <i>Session 4. Empathetic Leadership</i>
♦ <i>Encourage understanding of empathy and emotions in teamwork, while developing self-regulation and resilience to improve collaboration and communication.</i>	<i>Session 2. Impactful Leadership: Self-awareness</i> <i>Session 4. Empathetic Leadership</i>
♦ <i>Boost participant's confidence in articulating their ideas, presenting themselves, and engaging effectively in conversations.</i>	<i>Session 4. Empathetic Leadership</i>
♦ <i>Introduce practical networking tools and strategies applicable in both academic and professional environments.</i>	<i>Session 3. Networking tools and life hacks</i>
♦ <i>Foster Leadership Skills to help participants to learn about the ways in which individuals can increase their influence towards others</i>	<i>Session 5. Influencing a wider audience (articulating self)</i> <i>Session 6. Beyond Academia: Building Impact in Business and Innovation</i>

Learning Outcomes

Learning outcome	Session related to learning outcome
By the end of the Programme, participants will be able to: ♦ <i>Recognise their natural behaviours, leadership styles, and personal strengths through self-reflection and constructive feedback, enabling them to better understand their influence in team dynamics and decision-making.</i>	<i>Session 1. Beginning with Purpose: Developing Teamwork and exploring Leadership</i> <i>Session 2. Impactful Leadership: Self-awareness</i> <i>Session 5. Influencing a wider audience (articulating self)</i>
♦ <i>Articulate their ideas with increased confidence, presenting themselves clearly and engaging effectively in conversations, both in professional and academic settings.</i>	<i>Session 4. Empathetic Leadership</i>
♦ <i>Apply practical networking strategies, such as delivering personal pitches and establishing</i>	<i>Session 3. Networking tools and life hacks</i>

<i>professional connections, to expand their career opportunities and academic collaborations.</i>	<i>Session 6. Beyond Academia: Building Impact in Business and Innovation</i>
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Timetable

Date	Workshop
3 rd November 2025 4.30-6:00	<p>Beginning with Purpose: Developing Teamwork and exploring Leadership</p> <p>Speaker Richard Hill</p> <p>This session focuses on building team cohesion and understanding the concept of the team through interactive exercises such as escape rooms or teambuilding games. Participants will explore team dynamics, leadership roles, and natural behaviours within a team, gaining a deeper understanding of effective collaboration.</p> <p>The session concludes with mentor selection, fostering long-term mentorship bonds to support individual and team growth.</p>
17 th November 2025 4.30-6:00	<p>Impactful Leadership: Self-awareness</p> <p>Speaker: Anna Marsden</p> <p>This session will help students understand the importance of Emotional Intelligence (EI) in leadership and technical teamwork. Participants will explore EI, self-awareness, and their impact on decision-making and leadership behaviours. The session will also address leadership in a diverse and inclusive world, encouraging students to reflect on how their individual preferences and perspectives can shape authentic and effective leadership styles.</p>
Christmas holidays	<p>Self-study session</p> <p>This session will be with tools and strategies to improve productivity and self-awareness. Students will learn about the time-management and psychological factors behind procrastination and how to overcome them using practical infographics. The YearCompass tool will guide participants in reflecting on their goals and setting actionable steps for both academic and personal development. The session emphasises self-awareness as a foundation for effective time management and growth.</p>
26 th January 4.30-6:00	<p>Networking tools and lifehacks</p> <p>Speaker Michael Cresswell</p> <p>This session introduces networking as a strategic leadership skill, with a focus on influence, access to information, and career visibility. Participants will explore network theory, the value of weak ties and hubs, and practice impactful introductions and follow-up strategies. Through activities like the small-talk</p>

	exercise and personal network development, students learn to build meaningful connections in diverse settings, expanding both confidence and capability in professional and cross-disciplinary interactions.
9 th February 2026 4.30-6:00	<p>Empathetic Leadership</p> <p>Speaker Rachel Thomason</p> <p>This session explores the topic of effective conversations, focusing on the power of open questions, active listening, and feedback. Participants will develop practical skills to ask better questions, give and receive feedback, and engage in meaningful dialogue. With insights into growth mindset and inclusive communication, this session empowers students to build stronger relationships and collaborative environments, - key leadership capabilities in technical and team-based settings</p>
23 rd February 2026 - 4.30-6:00	<p>Influencing a wider audience (articulating self)</p> <p>Speaker: Caroline Rippin</p> <p>This session equips participants with the skills to pitch themselves effectively and influence others' perceptions. The session focuses on how to structure self-promotion, engage in direct conversations, and ask insightful questions to keep others engaged. Participants will learn techniques to communicate confidently, build rapport, and present themselves in a way that resonates with their audience, enhancing personal and professional influence.</p>
9 th March 2026 4.30-6:00	<p>Beyond Academia: Building Impact in Business and Innovation</p> <p>Speaker: Marcel Headman</p> <p>This session, delivered by a Churchill College alumnus, explores how researchers can successfully transition from academia into industry, entrepreneurship, and leadership roles. Drawing on experience in deep tech, venture capital, and consulting, the speaker demonstrates how business fundamentals, investment know-how, and strategic leadership can shape impactful careers. For current students, the session offers an inspiring opportunity to see how academic expertise translates into innovation, enterprise, and leadership in real-world settings</p>

Delivery method

The programme includes:

- Presentations/lectures
- Group discussions and activities
- Reflection
- Question and answer opportunities
- Role-play exercises

Feedback

Feedback will be collected from participants during the final session via a Forms survey. Feedback from the client will be collected via a follow-up meeting as soon as possible after the end of the programme. Feedback from contributors will be solicited via email after the programme, and feedback from the programme director will be collected during the programme debrief meeting.

Programme team

- ♦ Programme Director – Michael Cresswell
- ♦ Programme Designer – Anna Antonova
- ♦ Programme Delivery Manager – Andy Zhang