Gender-balanced boards are proven to result in greater business success, and yet women are still hugely underrepresented in boardrooms across the world. The Women’s Directorship Programme, now in its ninth year, addresses this imbalance by enabling more board-ready female leaders to rise to the challenge.

Registration close: Friday 16 April 2021
Tuition: USD 12,500
Tuition includes some meals and materials, excludes accommodation
More information: www.wdp-international.com

Through a comprehensive combination of lectures, interactive sessions, leadership exercises and input from international faculty members and senior business leaders, the Women’s Directorship Program offers a blend of both academic and practical learning. The programme serves to address contemporary issues in the workplace, across industries and geographies.

The Women’s Directorship Programme is designed to help participants develop their own set of strategies tailored to their career ambitions, situation and personality, recognising that these will evolve over time as new challenges arise and elements in their lives change.

The six-day programme, split into two sessions of three days each, will be held at The University of Hong Kong’s Cyberport Campus. Additional programme dates have been included for the class of 2021 to ensure we have a built in contingency plan that allows for a change of format (from in-person to a hybrid programme – online and in-person), should COVID-19 travel restrictions etc. still be in place.

Participants will have the opportunity to meet and network with counterparts from different countries and influential guest speakers, such as:

Anne Minto, INED of Shire and Tate & Lyle
Donald Brydon, Chairman of Sage Group
Dr. Raymond Ch’ien, Chairman of Hang Seng Bank
Jean-Pascal Tricoire, Chairman & CEO of Schneider Electric

Who Should Attend
The programme is designed to equip participants with the skills and knowledge to assume boardroom responsibilities as a Director or Non-Executive Director.

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Programme Modules

Session 1 - online
Module 1. The Roles And Responsibilities Of Board Members
May 6th & 7th (afternoon)
The first module of the programme provides participants with perspective on the roles of the board and supporting committees, plus practical insights regarding the roles and responsibilities of independent non-executive directors (NEDs) in terms of the finance, audit, risk oversight and remuneration committees. This module will discuss the typical responsibilities of the nomination committee and explore the most effective processes for making board appointments.

Module 2. Strategic Leadership
May 8th & June 17th (afternoon)
To achieve organisational goals, board directors as leaders, must collaborate with people across and outside of their organisational boundaries – serving to acquire new ideas and resources. This module will explore strategic thinking, focused on the benefits of various business models and their evolution, as well as understanding the key issues facing listed companies, and what and how to advise the board and managing executives.

Module 3. Ethics And Compliance
June 18th & 19th (afternoon)
This dynamic, interactive communications module will engage participants in a full day of intense skills development, to enhance understanding and awareness of self and how to communicate and influence others. The concepts of trust, power navigation, executive presence and crisis communication styles will all be explored. This module will equip participants with a working knowledge of securities regulation and directors’ obligations and responsibilities with respect to the public companies they oversee. After working through case studies and examples from major public markets, participants will gain a better understanding of the often-problematic issues that regularly present themselves to directors of public companies.

Module 4. Securities Market Regulation
9th September
This module equips participants with a working knowledge of securities regulation and directors’ obligations and responsibilities with respect to the public companies they oversee. After working through case studies and examples from major public markets, participants will gain a better understanding of the often-problematic issues that regularly present themselves to directors of public companies.

Module 5. Persuasive Communication And Conflict Resolutions
10th September
This module focuses on moral philosophy, organisational psychology, and cognitive biology, with an emphasis on communication and ethical reasoning skills that impact on professional performance. Two primary areas of business ethics will be highlighted – firstly how directors can utilise “moral architecture” to build mechanisms that help employees and executive teams avoid unethical behaviour. Secondly individual ethics will be discussed, reviewing universal cognitive biases, exploring how to best motivate people and how we can improve ethical decision-making.

Module 6. Board Simulation Exercise
11th September
This simulation exercise enables participants to put lessons learned throughout the programme into practice. This module will explore how to operate legally, ethically and efficiently in the current economic and legal environment. Participants will discuss how making decisions causes a ripple effect across the entire business.

Examination

The Women’s Directorship Programme is accredited as an MA equivalent. To receive this qualification all participants are required to undertake an examination at the close of the programme.

Information

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Business success hinges on a gender-balanced boardroom for continued growth. Please visit www.wdp-international.com for further details and registration.

The Women’s Directorship Programme enjoys the support of The Women’s Foundation and Community Business.