CHEAD
The Council for Higher Education in Art & Design
Arts, design, creative media and related disciplines

CHEAD Annual Review August 2025 - July 2026

Programme

Events
- Innovations in Practice series focusing on Skills for Planet + Placemaking
- **The Future-Proof Leader Cultivating Unshakeable Confidence for Strategic Impact**

Subject Association Alliance
- 3 meetings
- Developed **CHEAD SAA manifesto**

RIKE
- 6 REF Forum meetings
- IKE Forum launched

Technical Alliance
- Leadership Programme
- 1vCHEAD X Technology Group webinar
- 1 CHEAD X in-person evnet at LCF

Sustainability Think Tank
- 1 meeting

FE/HE Think Tank
- Bi-monthly meetings

Membership

69 Members

Annual Conference 2026
Navigating Change: A Creative Leader's Role

Leadership
Creative Leadership Programme launched
Technical Alliance Leadership Programme

Policy & Advocacy

Consultations
- Responded to REF Open Access
- QAA Subject Benchmark Statements
- DBA Regional roundtables
- Development of Freelancers Framework
- Creative Education Manifesto

Campaigns
- British Council GREAT Campaign
- Campaign for the Arts
- Creative Education Manifesto
- CHEAD pledged to deliver the HE element of the Design Council's Skills for Planet Mission to upskill 1 million designers by 2030

12 Policy Briefings

Publications
- Women In Leadership: Cracking the Code – Progression and Promotion Working Paper
- Civic and Place: framing the role of cultural development in Art and Design Working Paper
- Blueprint for Design Education
- National Saturday Club Growth Strategy
- Subject Associations Alliance Manifesto