

Aspiring CEO

Deloitte.



Melbourne
Business
School

Aspiring CEO

We recognise that exceptional CEOs need the rare combination of visionary leadership and adaptive expertise to thrive in today's rapidly evolving business environment.

Aspiring CEO is a leadership course for executives preparing for their first CEO role, developed by Melbourne Business School and Deloitte. This exclusive program acknowledges that CEOs require unique skills and mindsets to navigate today's complex business landscape. It combines strategic frameworks, practical examples, simulations and coaching to equip aspiring CEOs with actionable steps to secure and excel in a chief executive role.

Executives, board members, and thought leaders alongside experts from Melbourne Business School and Deloitte will help participants develop the vision, adaptability and resilience needed to navigate technological shifts and geopolitical challenges in an increasingly fast-changing business environment. After the three-day program, you will gain greater self-awareness and a trusted peer network to support your transition, helping you hit the ground running and maximise your strategic impact.

Who Should Attend?

Each program will include up to 15 senior executives from private, government, listed, and not-for-profit organisations that are identified as top candidates for promotion to a CEO role within the next three years.

To be eligible, you must support your application with an endorsement from your CEO or Board Chair confirming your readiness for a CEO role within three years, even if that role is outside your current organisation.

Key Takeaways

1. **Skills, practical tools, and a new mindset** and development pathway to progress into your first CEO role and be set for success before, during and after the transition.
2. **The confidence** to determine whether the CEO role is right for you and how you can get there.
3. **A peer network** to navigate real challenges, assess opportunities and engage in trusted conversations – now and into the future.

Learning Methods

- **Interactive sessions**, delivered by our world-class presenters, are grounded in evidence and best practice to increase your awareness and effectiveness.
- **Case studies** provide practical, real-world examples that translate research-based management theory into applicable skills.
- **Peer-learning groups** facilitate knowledge sharing, collaboration and feedback to ensure you have a powerful and personal experience that drives results.
- **Real-world challenges** from your current role will benefit from the power of peer learning. Together, we will unpack their complexity, contradictions, and weak points, as well as your own effectiveness in addressing them.
- **Experiential learning** deepens your insights into leadership, strategy and change, providing practical opportunities to reinforce new learning and expand your worldview.
- **Feedback** increases self-awareness and strengthens your capacity as a leader.
- **Personal reflection** gives you time to reflect on your learnings in a broader context, identify issues and establish the way forward.
- **Industry insights** from our extensive network provide access to best practices, fresh perspectives and essential skills.
- **Action planning** approach recognises that each leader's pathway is unique, delivering an experience that refines your ambition and provides practical steps to achieve it.

**MAGNUS GITTINS**Chief Executive
Education Officer

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Many executives have demonstrated capability to lead their respective business units. The shift to a CEO role demands greater enterprise leadership and a commitment to lean into the many complex challenges only CEOs face. At the School, we're proud to have helped thousands of leaders rise to this challenge.

**JOANNE GORTON**Chief Executive Officer
of Deloitte Australia

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Stepping into a CEO role is both a privilege and a defining moment – it calls for fresh perspective, agility, and trusted voices around you. That's why MBS and Deloitte have come together – to walk alongside new CEOs with a multidisciplinary team that brings real-world insight, deep connection, and practical tools for lasting impact across any industry or market.

Aspiring CEO Program Key Facilitators

Andrea North-Samardzic and Lee Peters are the lead facilitators of the Aspiring CEO program.

Throughout the program, you will also hear from accomplished CEOs, Board members, faculty, and industry experts.



ANDREA NORTH-SAMARDZIC

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, ASSOCIATE DEAN
EXECUTIVE DEGREE PROGRAMS

Andrea is an accomplished education and research executive with a proven track record of driving strategic change in Executive Education portfolios, with a focus on C-suite career development.

She is known for leading transformation and growth in MBA programs and, engaging top industry leaders in the design and development of innovative content and delivery.

Andrea's research is focused on senior leadership and she has worked with CEOs and C-suite executives across industries and sectors, both in Australia and with overseas clients, including Coles, the ASX, NutrienAg, the War College, Isuzu, Nissan, the TATA Group, local councils and government departments from India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.



LEE PETERS

PARTNER, DELOITTE AUSTRALIA

With over 20 years at Deloitte, including nearly a decade as a Partner, Lee has dedicated his career to fostering leadership excellence and capability development with his clients. His passion lies in transforming organisations into employers of choice by empowering individuals and leaders to unlock their full potential through impactful learning experiences.

Lee has collaborated with executive teams across industries and around the world, guiding them through strategic transformations and cultivating high-performing cultures. By integrating proven methodologies with a deep understanding of human dynamics, Lee strives to create engaging learning environments that inspire growth, innovation, and lasting impact.

 3 days

 Carlton

Note: This program is residential where learners stay on campus and participate in workshop activities after hours. The program fee covers tuition, meals and accommodation during the workshop.

Please refer to our website for the latest program fees and dates.



Topics Covered



What does it take to be a CEO?

- Your motivation and values alignment: Aligning your 'why', core values, and your story.
- Physical and mental health: Prioritising physical and mental health for optimal executive function and performance.
- Current CEO perspective: Guest speaker will share their journey and lived experience navigating real-world scenarios.



What capabilities and experiences do I need?

- Capabilities required: Your accountabilities including technical considerations and organisational fundamentals; team and talent; and relationships.
- Operating at the CEO level: Making the difficult decisions, and leading through change and adversity.
- Board and external stakeholders: Working together for greater impact.



How do I get there?

- Strategy & execution: Develop an action plan to secure your first CEO role.
- Pitch for the role: Positioning yourself for the role.
- Peer network: Ongoing support from network of peers.

PRE-PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

- Pre-reading - articles and case studies for topic areas
- 1:1 interview with Program Director

DAY 1	DAY 2	POST-PROGRAM ACTIVITIES
Your story	Real-life CEO scenarios	Strategy and action plan 1:1 lab
Your “why” and values	CEO skills and capabilities	
CEO Panel	Choices and trade-offs	
High performing teams	CEO-led experience	
Dinner		

PREREQUISITES

Participants will require endorsement from their Chair or Board Chair to be accepted into this program.

This program has been developed by:

Deloitte.



CAMPUS LOCATIONS:

HEAD OFFICE

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ALL PROGRAM & PARTNERSHIP ENQUIRIES:



Anne Reaney

Short Courses,
Executive Education



Sarah Fay

Short Courses,
Executive Education

FOR INDIVIDUALS

Please don't hesitate to contact Anne at programs@mbs.edu, or give us a call at **+61 3 9349 8200**, for more information about any of the programs in our short course range.

FOR ORGANISATIONS

To explore our learning solutions for your team and organisation, contact Sarah at **+61 481 181 858** or s.fay@mbs.edu. She is also happy to assist with organisational discounts and volume booking inquiries.