The Accelerated Alternative to an Executive MBA.

Harvard Business School (HBS) Executive Education offers a personalized learning experience that transforms the world’s most promising managers into the next generation of visionary leaders—the Program for Leadership Development (PLD).

PLD Sets You Apart.
Unlike an executive MBA, PLD is tailored to your unique leadership goals and business challenges. Two important components contribute to your personal and professional transformation:

- A personal case that enables you to address a specific challenge in your organization by developing and refining an in-depth strategy and implementation plan throughout the program
- A competitive Alumni Challenge that fosters global teamwork as you and your living group collaborate online to solve a real-world business issue

Key Benefits:
- Gain in-depth knowledge of business functions and amplify foundational skills to integrate these functions across your organization
- Examine new techniques and technologies for driving results throughout your company in any market cycle
- Deepen your understanding of management, business drivers, and innovation to drive meaningful change across industries and borders
- Improve your strategic ability to identify problems, formulate solutions, and adapt to global market shifts
- Expand your capacity to lead high-performing global teams and generate future growth amid challenging markets
- Develop a leadership philosophy and presence that reflect greater confidence, decision-making skills, and strategic insight

Fast-Track Your Career.
Often compared to a rapid-fire MBA, PLD is designed for specialists and star contributors who have at least 10 to 15 years of work experience and have been identified as outstanding prospects for increased leadership responsibilities. Focused on leadership, change, and innovation, PLD equips you with a broader understanding of core business functions and deeper confidence in your decision-making skills. You will emerge with a personal action plan for advancing your leadership goals—and strengthening your company’s competitive edge.

Become an Authentic Leader.
Ideally suited for busy professionals who want to expand their leadership skills with minimal downtime, the rigorous PLD curriculum is tailored to achieve a singular goal—accelerate the development of emerging business leaders. Delivered via four intensive modules that take place over the course of seven months, the compressed format is designed with your responsibilities in mind. The two on-campus modules require a total of four weeks away from your job.

Is PLD Right for You?
Each PLD cohort reflects a world of talents, functions, industries, and cultures to ensure a truly global learning experience. PLD participants typically have 10 to 15 years of work experience, and are recognized as outstanding prospects for increased leadership responsibilities.

Letter of Reference.
Harvard Business School Executive Education requires that a letter of reference be completed by a senior executive within the applicant’s organization, a board member of the applicant’s company, or a Harvard Business School graduate familiar with the applicant’s role and responsibilities who can provide a detailed firsthand account. This letter of reference provides the Admissions Committee with a better understanding of your background and your potential as a leader.

Boost Your Corporate Impact.
Through the active learning that takes place in the personal case and the Alumni Challenge, PLD participants not only broaden their management and leadership skills, but also build greater self-awareness and confidence. Their bosses, peers, and subordinates, on the other hand, note that participants interact with their teams and colleagues more productively, engage with senior executives more proactively, and lead cross-functional initiatives and corporate projects more successfully.
In-Depth Curriculum, Long-Term Results.
The highly integrated curriculum is composed of four educational modules—two distance learning and two on campus—plus a fifth optional two-week module on campus. After completing Module 5, you will achieve HBS alumni status.*

MODULE 1 / Distance Learning / 12 Weeks
Foundational Skill Building
Before arriving on campus, you will complete introductory courses in accounting, finance, and quantitative methods. Our Harvard Business School Online digital learning tool provides access to proprietary skill-building materials, interactive exercises, and instructional webinars, including “How to Prep a Case,” and insights into what drives an organization’s budgeting, pricing, and forecasting decisions. Through a 360-degree Leadership Learning Path Assessment, you will identify a performance gap or opportunity facing your firm and begin building a strategy and implementation plan.

MODULE 2 / On Campus / 2 Weeks
Cross-Functional Business Approach
After arriving on campus, you will begin to develop an integrated perspective on business and a global network of peers. The multidisciplinary curriculum provides a big-picture view of how all functions interrelate and contribute to the overall corporate strategy. Delving into each function’s core operations and best practices provides an end-to-end view of business that is essential to your growth as a leader.

MODULE 3 / Distance Learning / 14 Weeks
Strategy Formulation and Implementation
Back at your company, you will advance your skills via online exercises, group work, and individual study. You will create a strategy statement and value proposition, engage in an Alumni Challenge and faculty-led webinars, and explore strategies that drive global collaboration. During three phone sessions, your professional HBS Executive Coach will provide feedback on your personal case.

MODULE 4 / On Campus / 2 Weeks
Leading Change
Focused on change management, you will present an overview of your personal action, strategy, and implementation plan to your living group and coach. All living groups will present their Alumni Challenge solutions, and winners will be selected by the PLD participants. You will leave PLD ready to drive innovation, navigate volatile markets, and exploit new opportunities.

MODULE 5 / On Campus / 2 Weeks / Additional Fee
Personal Leadership (Optional)
Serving as a capstone to PLD, this two-week session brings together all the pieces of your PLD learning into an intensive MBA-like experience. You will explore corporate finance, personal leadership and accountability, negotiation and decision-making, and how to remain an authentic leader as your career progresses. After completing this module, you will earn HBS alumni status. (You also can earn alumni status by completing an additional 10 nights of HBS Executive Education open-enrollment or custom programs.)

*You also may earn alumni status by completing an additional 10 nights of HBS Executive Education open-enrollment or custom programs. For example, a 4-day program may require 3 nights on campus.