

HKIAS Sharing Session

How To Be Successful!



17 October 2025 (Friday)

10:30am-11:30am

(Light refreshment will be served from 10:00am-10:30am)

Senate Room, 19/F, Lau Ming Wai Academic Building,
City University of Hong Kong

Speaker:

Professor Dame Madeleine Atkins

HKIAS Senior Fellow

President of Lucy Cavendish College (2018-2025)

University of Cambridge

Abstract

Dame Madeleine Atkins will lead this workshop-style session on “being successful” drawing on advice given to graduates and postgraduate students in her own Cambridge College as well as elements from her personal non-linear career. She will lead exploration of different career paths open to early career researchers within academe and beyond it, the types of opportunity that may be presented, and the professional attributes, skills and experiences that employers of highly skilled graduates are typically now looking for. Participants will be encouraged to engage actively and join in with discussion in the session.

Biography

Professor Dame Madeleine Atkins is the President of Lucy Cavendish College at the University of Cambridge and a distinguished leader in higher education in the United Kingdom.

She graduated from Girton College, University of Cambridge, with a degree in law and history, followed by a postgraduate certificate in education from the University of Oxford and a PhD from the University of Nottingham. Her career in academia includes serving as Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Newcastle University (1998–2004) and Vice-Chancellor of Coventry University (2004–2013). In 2014, she was appointed Chief Executive of the Higher Education Funding Council for England, overseeing university regulation, funding distribution, and the Research and Teaching Excellence Frameworks.

Since 2018, Dame Madeleine assumed her present position as the 9th President of Lucy Cavendish College at the University of Cambridge, an institution dedicated to widening access to exceptional students from underrepresented backgrounds. Under her leadership, the College expanded its mission in 2019 to welcome outstanding students from all underrepresented groups, regardless of gender, from the age of 18.

Her remarkable contributions to higher education have been recognized with numerous honors, including her appointment as Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in 2012 and Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire (DBE) in 2018. She is also an Honorary Fellow of Girton College and has received honorary doctorates from the University of Nottingham (2017), the University of Gloucestershire (2018) and City University of Hong Kong (2024).

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Registration:

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