

Executive Insights Sessions Information for Participants

The API's Summer School will include a new online 'Executive Insights' module in 2022, featuring leaders from the API's Governor member organisations sharing their insights on the strategic challenges and opportunities they see for the power sector in the context of their organisation. Executives will also share a Challenge Question with delegates, who will then work in small groups during the Summer School to craft a shared response.

The Executive Insights module has 3 parts:

1. *Before Summer School*: 10x online sessions with executives (30 mins each)
2. *At Summer School*: personally reflect on the content of the School and how it applies to your selected Challenge Question, and work with a small group of other delegates to craft a shared response to your selected Question.
3. *After Summer School*: 2x online sessions, working in your group to finalise your response followed by sharing of your group's response to your Challenge with the other delegates.

Our learning goals for delegates include:

1. Insights into strategic challenges and opportunities for the power sector, from the perspective of senior leaders in our organisations
2. Insights into how executives approach these issues from a strategic and organisation perspective (compared to approaches of operational teams).
3. For delegates to experience exploring an issue 'outside the usual box of their role' and to apply the knowledge generated through summer school at a strategic level to an organisation-impacting challenge, working in a cross-discipline team.

Details of the Challenge Questions:

Executives have been each asked to share a "Challenge Question" for the delegates to reflect upon during the live Summer School session.

Example: With the rapid changes in technologies and market operations underway and the associated changes in skills and capabilities needed in our workforce to maintain our business operations, what are the key issues and what are high level solutions our organisation can explore to ensure access to an appropriately skilled workforce?

What should your response look like (and how to get there)?

1. After all the Executive Sessions, select a Challenge Question that challenges and interests you (deadline 14 July 2021).
2. Working in a team of 4-6 other delegates interested in the same Question, discuss and explore the question during the School. This includes a group session on the final Friday and an online session with your group after the School.
3. Your goal is to develop a 1-2 page joint response that provides insights to the question.
4. Your response should be pitched at a strategic level rather than for operational implementation and we don't expect you to be subject matter experts, but rather to give genuine feedback on the issues and opportunities that you can see.
5. Your written response will be shared with all delegates, the Executives and other stakeholders of the API, and you'll give a verbal briefing in the final online session.

Guidance to Executives for shaping your Question:

1. What is a genuine strategic question linked to the strategic challenges and opportunities for your organisation that would benefit from collective and diverse insights?
2. You will gain insights from the viewpoints of a number of high calibre emerging leaders, but don't expect a solution for implementation, crafted by subject matter experts
3. Consider framing as: How can we; What are some options; What are the key issues
4. Questions do not need to be technically oriented (noting that many summer school delegates come from a technical and engineering / operations background)
5. Questions should be strategic rather than operational in nature
6. Seize the opportunity to be as diverse or innovative as you like – this is an opportunity to get some heavy thinking from some capable minds on a challenging topic.

Note on recording and media:

We will be recording the online Executive Insights sessions for private access by Summer School delegates to review as they select a Challenge and shape their responses.

We plan to publicly share the Challenge questions and the responses from Summer School delegates as an output from the School that supports the thinking and visioning of all API members, including identifying the executives and Summer School delegates.

About the API Summer School+ in 2021:

Location: Adelaide, South Australia, 26 April – 6 May 2022

Theme: Thriving in Uncertainty and Harnessing Opportunity: Building the knowledge, insights and connections to enable success in these times of unprecedented uncertainty and opportunity.

Who is attending: we have 54 delegates attending. ~50 undergraduate students and graduates participating in the API's Powerful Women Leadership Program (Early Career stream) will also join the end of the Summer School and participate in your discussions on the Executive Insights.