

Alt-HE: Mission, Vision and Values

Mission

Alt-HE exists to **critically examine, document, and support the development of alternative models of higher education.**

We do this by:

- analysing the limitations and assumptions of current higher education systems
- building a structured, accessible knowledge base of alternative approaches
- convening a community of practice engaged in experimentation and collaboration

Our mission is to create the intellectual and practical infrastructure needed to make alternative forms of higher education more visible, intelligible, and developable.

This aligns with the core proposition of Alt-HE as a platform for critique, knowledge, and practice .

Vision

We envision a higher education landscape in which:

- multiple, diverse models of learning and knowledge production coexist
- credible alternatives to traditional universities are visible and understood
- experimentation in higher education is normalised rather than marginal
- learners, educators, and communities can participate in forms of higher learning that are more responsive, accessible, and meaningful

Alt-HE aims to contribute to a future where:

higher education is not defined by a single dominant institutional form, but by a plurality of evolving models.

This reflects the ambition to become a trusted reference point and catalyst for new forms of provision .

Values

1. Intellectual Rigour

We prioritise clarity of thought, evidence-based argument, and conceptual precision. Alt-HE is committed to serious inquiry rather than superficial critique.

2. Independence

We operate independently of any single institution, provider, or policy agenda. This allows us to explore alternatives without constraint or alignment to existing structures .

3. Constructive Critique

We critique current systems not as an end in itself, but to open space for viable alternatives. Our work is oriented toward development, not just diagnosis.

4. Structured Knowledge

We treat knowledge as something to be organised, cumulative, and shared. We prioritise synthesis and accessibility over fragmentation and volume .

5. Openness with Curation

We encourage broad participation while maintaining clear standards of quality and relevance. Alt-HE is open, but not unstructured.

6. Collaboration

We view Alt-HE as a shared endeavour, built through contributions from a distributed community of practitioners, researchers, and thinkers .

7. Experimentation

We recognise that alternative models emerge through practice. We support exploration, iteration, and learning from both success and failure.

8. Pluralism

We do not advocate for a single alternative model.

We seek to map and engage with a diversity of approaches, recognising that different contexts require different forms.

Summary

Alt-HE is guided by a commitment to:

- **critical inquiry**
- **shared knowledge**
- **collective development of alternatives**

Together, these principles underpin its role as a platform operating at the intersection of analysis, knowledge infrastructure, and collaborative practice .