**Imperial AI Fundamentals course – Application form**

Course summary

The increase in the capability and proliferation of AI systems poses huge public policy challenges and opportunities for government. Civil servants face uncertainty and questions over how to regulate the proliferation of AI tools and systems across society, as well as how to utilise its transformative potential in the design and delivery of public services.

Central government departments hold a unique space within the societal adoption of AI tools and systems. They will be the regulators of how the rest of society will use AI, regardless of whether such regulation is general or sector-specific. But they will also be some of the largest users of AI within their activities and in their back-office processes, in addition to this, departments, agencies and the public services they are ultimately responsible for will be the developers of new AI systems and tools in their own right.

Not all civil servants need to code or build a large language model. But if the government is to realise the benefits that exist for their citizens, officials will need to ask the right questions – of private companies, of their end users, of themselves, and to understand what solutions are appropriate to use for their context and for the needs of the citizens they serve.

***Imperial AI Fundamentals*** course is a unique short-course programme for civil and public servants to get to grips with fundamental AI-related concepts and applications and to understand how and when they can be deployed. Participants will benefit from Imperial’s teaching and subject matter expertise, without any requirements of formal AI or computer science training to take part.

Co-designed with civil servants, the programme will give access to Imperial’s leading expertise in foundational and applied AI research, generating new insights for the safe and impactful deployment of AI in public services.

Format

* The course will take place over 8 weeks, with one in-person session per week, beginning on Oct 25th 2024.
* A typical session would involve 90 minutes of taught content, followed by a 60-90 minute seminar or workshop. The sessions will take place at the Imperial College South Kensington campus.

Who should apply

* The course is open to civil servants of any grade with an interest in AI policy and/or regulation issues
* There is no pre-requisite formal AI or computer science training needed in order to participate.
* You will need to commit to attend all eight sessions in-person at Imperial’s South Kensington campus.

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*Please complete the application form below and submit to Imperial Policy Forum (*[*the.forum@imperial.ac.uk*](mailto:the.forum@imperial.ac.uk)*) by September 27th 2024. Given this is a course with limited placements, the results of the application process will be released on Oct 4th 2024.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name |  |
| Job Title and Grade |  |
| Department |  |
| Contact Details (Email & Phone) |  |

Area of responsibility and interest

What is your current role within the Department? How does AI impact on your role?

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What would you want to get out of this course? How would you use what you have learnt within your team/department?

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What technical skills/coding languages do you have? *(note: this is not a pre-requisite for the course)*

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|  |

Line Manager/Nominator Authorisation:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name |  |
| Job Title and Grade |  |
| Department |  |
| Contact Details (Email) |  |

**Imperial & AI**

Imperial has been selected as the World Economic Forum’s Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR) [Centre for AI-driven Innovation](https://twitter.com/PresHughBrady/status/1749366296964124694). The Centre will combine deep technical and academic expertise to drive the acceleration of innovation from foundational to applied AI and collaborate with policy makers and industry to develop regulatory frameworks and tools that enable the safe, productive and accelerated deployment of AI. The Centre will be based at Imperial’s White City Innovation District.

Imperial’s [AI Network](https://www.imperial.ac.uk/artificial-intelligence/) brings the combined power of nearly 300 researchers and 800 PhD/postdocs from across all faculties and disciplines to accelerate the safe and productive development and deployment of AI.

The science of data, how it is collected, curated and utilised, is critical to AI development. Imperial’s [Data Science Institute](https://www.imperial.ac.uk/data-science/) provides foundational expertise in data science and engineering.

[Imperial-X](https://ix.imperial.ac.uk/) (I-X) is our digital foundry with 100 researchers and over 30 new research projects in AI and innovation. I-X combines Imperial’s strengths in both foundational and applied AI to address interdisciplinary challenges and support novel industrial collaborations. The global significance of I-X has been recognised by its inclusion in the [Schmidt Futures $148m Fellowship programme](https://www.imperial.ac.uk/news/240936/schmidt-futures-selects-imperial-148m-initiative/).

Imperial is developing and supporting the next generation of AI skills. We host the UKRI Centre for Doctoral Training in [AI for Healthcare](https://ai4health.io/) and partner in the UKRI Centre for Doctoral Training in [Safe and Trusted AI](https://safeandtrustedai.org/).

Our AI ecosystem is further strengthened by our UK and global research collaborations such as the [Leverhulme Centre for Future Intelligence](http://lcfi.ac.uk/) and with industry leaders such as GSK, Thomson Reuters and Amazon Web Services, supporting AI-based startups across a range of sectors including healthcare and drug discovery, energy systems, autonomous vehicles, financial services and education technologies.

The Imperial Policy Forum has developed two new offerings to government. Firstly, an [AI Policy Fellowships](https://www.imperial.ac.uk/news/252073/imperial-launches-cohort-ai-policy-fellows/) programme for senior civil servants. Our first cohort of fifteen have pursued bespoke policy engagement projects with tailored expert mentorship by Imperial academics. Secondly, an **AI Fundamentals** education programme aimed at mid-level civil servants, offering an eight-module course teaching the basics of AI science and applied technologies.