



Foundations of Artificial Intelligence

Principles, Architecture, Applications & the Future

Program Name	Foundations of Artificial Intelligence
Duration	Six (6) Weeks April 6 – May 24, 2026
Format	Free Online Training via EduLearn360 (Mobile & Offline Capable)
Level	Beginner-Friendly No Prior Experience Required
Modules	6 Comprehensive Modules + Optional Capstone
Cost	FREE — Fully Sponsored Under the YEEAP Initiative



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Youth Empowerment and Economic Acceleration Program (YEEAP) is a transformative initiative designed to bridge the gap between potential and opportunity for millions of young people across Ethiopia and Africa. Across the continent, youth are bright, capable, and ambitious — ready to contribute, innovate, and lead. Yet, many remain constrained by limited access to quality education, digital skills, and clear pathways to employment.

YEEAP addresses this challenge by building a bridge from potential to prosperity, enabling youth to transition into dignified and fulfilling work. At its core, the program is committed to empowering millions of youth in Ethiopia while expanding its reach across multiple African countries through scalable, high-quality, and context-driven solutions.

The Foundations of Artificial Intelligence course is one of YEEAP's flagship training programs, designed to equip youth with critical knowledge and skills for the rapidly evolving digital economy. As Artificial Intelligence becomes a central driver of economic transformation, this course ensures that African youth are not only participants, but leaders — shaping the future of industry, governance, and innovation.

TARGET GROUP

This program is designed to be accessible to all who are ready to learn, regardless of technical background. The course specifically targets individuals who are eager to understand Artificial Intelligence and leverage it for career growth, entrepreneurship, or institutional transformation.

Who Should Apply?

- Anyone interested in learning Artificial Intelligence — regardless of prior technical experience
- Professionals seeking to upgrade their digital skills and remain competitive in the modern economy
- Career changers exploring technology and AI as a new professional direction
- High school graduates considering a career in the digital economy
- University students and graduates seeking to complement their academic training with applied AI skills
- Entrepreneurs and innovators who want to apply AI to build solutions and new ventures

The program is beginner-friendly and assumes no prior knowledge of computer science, programming, or machine learning. Participants bring their curiosity, commitment, and desire to grow — and YEEAP provides the rest.

Why This Group?

Young people and early-career professionals in Ethiopia and across Africa face a rapidly shifting labor market where digital skills — particularly AI literacy — are quickly becoming essential. This program equips the next generation of African leaders, professionals, and entrepreneurs with the knowledge and tools to thrive in an AI-driven global economy, while ensuring that Africa's development agenda is powered by its own people.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The Foundations of Artificial Intelligence course is designed with clear, outcome-oriented objectives aligned to both individual capability development and national transformation goals. Upon completion, participants will not only understand AI — they will be equipped to use it, apply it, and lead it.

Core Objectives

- Introduce the evolution, history, and strategic importance of Artificial Intelligence as a transformative global force
- Build a strong conceptual understanding of AI architecture, including machine learning, neural networks, and generative AI systems
- Equip participants with practical skills in AI usage, prompt engineering, and human-AI collaboration
- Explore AI applications across key sectors including banking, agriculture, healthcare, education, and government
- Address ethical considerations, AI governance frameworks, and the principles of responsible AI adoption
- Examine the role of AI in developing economies, with a specific focus on Ethiopia's digital transformation agenda
- Prepare participants to identify and pursue career and entrepreneurship opportunities in the AI-driven digital economy
- Build foundational knowledge for advanced AI, data science, and technology training

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

By the end of this six-week program, participants will have developed a comprehensive understanding of Artificial Intelligence — from its historical foundations to its most cutting-edge applications. The program delivers both knowledge and capability, ensuring that learning translates into real-world impact.

By the End of This Program, Participants Will:

- Understand how AI systems work and how they are transforming industries, economies, and careers worldwide
- Gain hands-on experience interacting with AI tools and platforms, including Large Language Models and generative AI systems
- Apply AI solutions for productivity, innovation, decision-making, and entrepreneurship
- Develop critical awareness of AI risks, governance frameworks, and ethical principles for responsible adoption
- Identify career and business opportunities within the AI-driven digital economy
- Demonstrate practical prompt engineering skills to collaborate effectively with AI as a productivity and strategy tool
- Understand emerging technologies including Blockchain, Edge AI, Quantum Computing, and their convergence with AI
- Build a personal AI literacy foundation that supports continued learning and professional development

Strategic Impact

At the institutional and national level, this program is designed to:

- Expand AI and digital literacy at scale across Ethiopia and participating African countries
- Support youth employment, entrepreneurship, and labor market readiness
- Enable AI-driven transformation across key economic sectors
- Bridge the gap between education and the rapidly evolving labor market
- Strengthen Africa's participation and leadership in the global digital economy

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The Foundations of Artificial Intelligence course is structured into six carefully designed modules, each building upon the last to create a complete and progressive learning journey. The course combines conceptual depth with practical application, ensuring participants develop both understanding and usable skills.

Week	Module Title	Theme	Key Focus
1	Evolution of Artificial Intelligence	From Logic Machines to Generative Intelligence	History, milestones, and why AI matters now
2	AI Architecture – Machine Learning & Neural Networks	How AI Systems Work	Data, ML types, neural networks, transformers
3	AI Models, Platforms & Ecosystems	The AI Landscape Today	LLMs, platforms, enterprise vs consumer AI

4	Prompt Engineering & Human–AI Collaboration	Working Effectively with AI	Prompting techniques, AI as copilot, risk awareness
5	Ethical AI, Governance & Responsible Adoption	Building Trustworthy AI Systems	Ethics, privacy, governance, workforce impact
6	AI Applications & Emerging Technologies	The Future of Intelligent Systems	Sector applications, NLP, Computer Vision, future tech

MODULE 1

Evolution of Artificial Intelligence

Theme: From Logic Machines to Generative Intelligence

Module Overview

Module 1 sets the intellectual foundation for the entire course. Before participants can work with or lead AI, they must understand where it came from, how it evolved, and why it represents a historic inflection point for humanity. This module takes participants on a journey from the earliest philosophical questions about machine intelligence through to the generative AI revolution shaping the world today.

Participants explore the conceptual boundaries between human and artificial intelligence, understand the pivotal historical moments that shaped the field — including the setbacks and 'AI Winters' — and develop a clear understanding of why data, computing power, and cloud infrastructure unlocked the current era of accelerated AI progress. The module closes with a powerful framing of AI not as a distant technological phenomenon, but as the defining transformation wave of our time.

MODULE 2

AI Architecture – Machine Learning & Neural Networks

Theme: How AI Systems Work

Module Overview

Module 2 moves from history and context to the technical architecture that powers modern AI systems. Designed for a non-specialist audience, this module demystifies how AI actually works — from raw data collection through model training, evaluation, and deployment. Participants do not need to become engineers; they need to become intelligent users and leaders of AI systems.

The module covers the complete AI workflow, the three main types of machine learning, the fundamentals of neural networks and deep learning, and the transformer architecture that powers today's most advanced AI models. Participants leave with both conceptual clarity and practical appreciation for how AI systems are built and what drives their performance.

MODULE 3**AI Models, Platforms & Ecosystems***Theme: The AI Landscape Today***Module Overview**

Module 3 introduces participants to the actual AI landscape they will navigate as professionals, entrepreneurs, and leaders. Moving from architecture to application, this module maps the ecosystem of AI models, platforms, and tools that are available today — and helps participants understand which tools are appropriate for which contexts.

Participants explore the major Large Language Model families, the rise of multimodal AI, and the development platforms that power enterprise AI solutions. The module culminates in an examination of how organizations move from AI experimentation to becoming AI-native — a transformation journey that participants will be equipped to lead.

MODULE 4**Prompt Engineering & Human–AI Collaboration***Theme: Working Effectively with AI***Module Overview**

Module 4 is the most immediately practical module in the course. It focuses on how to work with AI effectively — specifically through the discipline of prompt engineering and the broader model of human-AI collaboration. Participants learn that getting powerful results from AI is not a matter of technical programming, but of clear communication, structured thinking, and critical judgment.

This module introduces participants to the core techniques of prompt engineering, demonstrates how AI can serve as a powerful copilot for productivity and strategy, and develops critical awareness of the risks of misuse. Participants engage in hands-on practical exercises designing prompts for real-world business scenarios.

MODULE 5**Ethical AI, Governance & Responsible Adoption***Theme: Building Trustworthy AI Systems***Module Overview**

Module 5 addresses the critical dimension of responsible AI — the ethical, legal, and governance frameworks that ensure AI is deployed in ways that are fair, transparent, accountable, and beneficial. As

AI becomes embedded in high-stakes decisions across banking, healthcare, law enforcement, and public policy, understanding AI governance is not optional for tomorrow's leaders — it is essential.

This module examines the ethical risks inherent in AI systems, the privacy and sovereignty challenges of data-driven AI, the emerging field of Explainable AI (XAI), and the governance structures organizations and governments are developing to manage AI responsibly. Particular attention is given to the African and Ethiopian context, where AI adoption must be shaped by local values, developmental needs, and capacity realities.

MODULE 6

AI Applications & Emerging Technologies

Theme: The Future of Intelligent Systems

Module Overview

Module 6 brings the course to life by connecting AI principles and architecture to the full spectrum of real-world applications and future technologies. Participants explore how AI is currently deployed across key sectors — including banking, healthcare, agriculture, education, and government — before looking ahead to the emerging technology landscape that will shape the next decade of digital transformation.

The module is structured in three parts: current sectoral applications, the core AI technologies that power them, and the emerging frontier technologies that will define the next wave. The module concludes with a forward-looking examination of the road toward Artificial General Intelligence and the future of human-AI symbiosis.

CAPSTONE PROJECT (OPTIONAL)

The optional Capstone Project provides participants with the opportunity to synthesize all six modules of learning into a practical, institution-specific deliverable. Participants who complete the Capstone will develop a comprehensive AI Adoption Roadmap for their organization, community, or sector — demonstrating both their understanding of AI principles and their ability to apply them strategically.

Capstone Deliverables

- AI Adoption Roadmap: A phased plan for introducing or scaling AI in a specific organizational context
- Risk and Governance Framework: Identification of key ethical, legal, and operational risks, with mitigation strategies
- AI-Enabled Strategic Plan Alignment: How AI capabilities can advance the institution's strategic objectives
- Sector-Specific Application Analysis: A deep-dive into one AI use case relevant to the participant's sector

Assessment and Recognition

- Participants who complete all six modules receive a YEEAP Certificate of Completion
- Participants who complete the Capstone receive a YEEAP Certificate of Achievement
- Certificates are issued through Florida University Southeast (FUSE-SPS) and YEEAP
- Top Capstone projects may be featured in YEEAP's national showcase and presented to institutional leaders

Powered by Global Synergy — Four in One

This program is delivered through a strategic partnership of four complementary institutions, combining global expertise with African context and local insight:

Placid Solutions & Consulting	Local leadership, implementation, and strategic coordination across Ethiopia and Africa
Florida University Southeast (FUSE-SPS)	Academic excellence, certification authority, and knowledge systems development
InnoLearn Systems	EduLearn360 digital learning platform, technology infrastructure, and mobile delivery
CrossWave Partners	Global consulting expertise, market linkage, and workforce integration strategies

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