

1. AI for Educators: Opportunities and Challenges

Course description

This course helps practicing teachers make sense of what AI can (and can't) do in real classrooms. We look at AI as a practical aid for inclusion and accessibility—supporting diverse learners through language leveling, multimodal resources, and assistive features—while also exploring how it can streamline planning, feedback, and everyday administrative tasks. Along the way, we challenge familiar routines and consider how AI can open space for richer inquiry, creativity, and student agency. Balanced against these opportunities, the course builds a grounded understanding of risks: bias and fairness, privacy and safeguarding, academic integrity, transparency, copyright, and the human judgment required to use AI responsibly in education. By the end, participants will be equipped to make context-aware decisions about when to adopt AI, how to implement it ethically, and how to communicate choices with learners, colleagues, and families.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the course, participants will be able to:

1. Explain core AI concepts in plain language and relate them to teaching and learning.
2. Identify authentic use cases where AI enhances inclusivity and accessibility (e.g., language support, alternative formats, UDL-aligned scaffolds).
3. Design AI-assisted workflows that reduce teacher workload while preserving pedagogical intent and professional judgment.
4. Critically evaluate AI-enabled pedagogical approaches (personalisation, inquiry support, formative feedback) and align them with curriculum aims.
5. Apply a practical ethics lens—bias, fairness, transparency, explainability—to review AI tools and classroom practices.
6. Implement privacy- and safety-aware practices for handling student data, including age-appropriate use and consent considerations.
7. Promote academic integrity by teaching students responsible AI use, citation/acknowledgment, and limits of automation.
8. Assess the accessibility impact of AI features and propose adaptations for learners with diverse needs.
9. Develop a simple, evidence-informed plan to pilot an AI-supported activity and define success indicators.
10. Communicate benefits, risks, and safeguards clearly to stakeholders (students, parents/guardians, colleagues, leadership).