DIGITAL AND INNOVATION

LEVEL 7

EDUCATE — ENABLE — EMPOWER

Professional Certificate in

# Artificial Intelligence Fundamentals in Financial Services

2026—2027

iob

A recognised college of UCD

# Who we are

## IOB

IOB is a professional community of over 31,100 members who work in banking, funds and asset management and the international financial services sector. Professional development of our members through education is at the heart of what we do. IOB provides university programmes to enable our members achieve and sustain their professional qualifications and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) - essential in meeting customer and regulatory expectations.

### Excellence in education – a recognised college of UCD

As a recognised college of UCD and the standout financial services industry educator, we offer qualifications of the highest standard. We currently offer more than 40 programmes ranging from Professional Certificates and Diplomas (level 7) on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) to Masters Degrees (level 9). We design our programmes to be practical and relevant but grounded in academic rigour.

## An exciting new programme supporting unique AI learning requirements in financial services

- Understand the use and limitations of AI
- Financial services
- NFQ Level 7

# Welcome

I am delighted to introduce you to the Professional Certificate in Artificial Intelligence Fundamentals in Financial Services programme, which was officially launched in October 2024 at the IOB Future of Finance Summit.

As AI comes more to the fore throughout the industry and is being adopted across banking, fintech, funds and the entire financial services sector, we at IOB are here to support the sector's education needs in this critical area, which is still only at the early stages of this transformation.

This programme will equip financial services professionals with the cutting-edge expertise required to make the most of this transformative technology.

The Professional Certificate in Artificial Intelligence Fundamentals in Financial Services is a level 7 UCD accredited programme, designed to equip financial services professionals with the knowledge and skills to navigate and lead in today's financial markets, where AI tools and technologies are transforming the landscape. You'll learn how to optimise workflows, stay ahead of regulatory changes, and drive real, impactful innovation within your organisation.

**This programme will provide you with the knowledge and skills to:**

- Optimise workflows, stay ahead of regulatory changes, and drive real, impactful innovation within your organisation
- Advance AI implementation across business entities in a safe, secure and efficient way
- Stay competitive and future-proof your career by mastering the AI techniques shaping the industry now.

I wish you every success with your studies and look forward to supporting you on your learning journey.

**Margaret D'Arcy**
Programme Director

# Who is the programme for?

### About the programme

The programme is designed to equip financial services professionals with the knowledge and skills to navigate and lead in today's financial markets, where AI tools and technologies are transforming the landscape. You'll learn how to optimise workflows, stay ahead of regulatory changes, and drive real, impactful innovation within your organisation.

In particular, the programme will be of interest to:

- Professionals who are engaged, or aspire to be engaged, in AI-related tasks, aiming to enhance operational efficiency and support team objectives through foundational AI-driven solutions
- Professionals seeking to broaden their understanding and skills to support the safe, secure, and effective implementation of AI across business operations
- Professionals who want to future-proof their career by building foundational skills in AI techniques shaping the industry now.

### How you will benefit

On completing the Professional Certificate in Artificial Intelligence Fundamentals in Financial Services you will be expected to be able to:

- Identify and explain clearly, the key concepts, terms, definitions, theory and practice underpinning Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the financial services sector
- Select pertinent AI driven technologies and techniques and demonstrate how they can be used to improve productivity and resolve strategic issues in financial services firms
- Assess the effectiveness of AI strategies and data analysis techniques in financial services firms
- Communicate clearly (using appropriate media) to key stakeholders, colleagues, or peers the essentials of AI and the AI advantage in financial services firms
- Uncover and pursue learning opportunities (academic and non-academic) which enhance your professional career ambitions and individual and team-based capabilities.

# Curriculum

**NFQ:** Level 7
**Academic credits:** 15 ECTS
**Modules:** 3
**Delivery:** Online
**Awarding body:** UCD

The Professional Diploma in AI Fundamentals in Financial Services is comprised of three modules as follows:

1. **Working effectively and responsibly with AI** (NFQ Level 7, 5 ECTS)
2. **Enhancing productivity with AI** (NFQ Level 7, 5 ECTS)
3. **Using AI in the FSI** (NFQ Level 7, 5 ECTS)

### 1. Working effectively and responsibly with AI

Designed to equip you with essential knowledge of AI technologies, their applications, ethical considerations, and security measures, fostering responsible and effective use of AI in the financial services industry. This module will:

- Introduce you to the foundational elements of AI
- Look into the concepts, terminology, the ethics and the governance.

### 2. Enhancing productivity with AI

Explore the fundamentals of discriminative and generative AI (GenAI), focusing on their applications in enhancing productivity, using machine learning (ML) models and decision-making tools to generative AI tools for content creation and quality control. In this module, you will:

- Gain experience with basic machine learning tools
- Learn about discriminative AI and generative AI.

### 3. Using AI in the FSI

Discover the evolution and current applications of AI in financial services, including model exploration, governance, the EU AI Act and its impact on the sector, prompt engineering to optimise the use of large language models, and examine how AI will impact on the Future of Work in financial services entities. In this module, you will:

- Bring together the learnings from the previous two modules
- Look at the key models, the management frameworks and the EU AI Act
- Construct and refine prompts to get the most out of AI whether it's generative or discriminative.

# Further Information

### Programme Commencement

September 2026

### Learning Supports

Learning supports are available from the start of the trimester from IOB Learn – your own online resource – which is accessible from iob.ie. You should check IOB Learn regularly for module news, study and workshop material and other resources.

### Duration and Delivery

The programme is delivered online and it can be completed in 1 year (part-time).

It is strongly recommended that students attend all their scheduled online lectures. Details and schedules for the delivery for each module are set out in the study guides accompanying each module.

### Assessment

100% continuous assessment.

The assessment is a combination of project work and continuous assessment. IOB programmes are largely delivered and assessed online. Students should ensure that they have appropriate equipment (laptop) and that appropriate software (including MS Office and Word) is available to them to participate in the programmes and related assessments.

### Award

When you successfully complete this programme, you will be awarded a Professional Certificate in Artificial Intelligence Fundamentals in Financial Services from UCD.

This is a level 7 qualification on the National Framework of Qualifications.

### Entry requirements

The entry requirements for individuals seeking admission to the Professional Certificate in Artificial Intelligence Fundamentals in Financial Services are:

- Five passes in the Leaving Certificate, including English and Mathematics
- Five O Level/GCSE passes, including English Language and Mathematics

IOB will also consider applications from mature candidates i.e, applicants aged 23 +years before the closing date for programme applications.

### Professional body membership

You must be a current member of IOB, or become a member, to enrol for this programme.

### Fees

The programme fee is €2,040 - (€680 per module).

### How to enrol

To enrol online, please visit
iob.ie/programme/ai-fundamentals

### Contact us

**Lorraine Duane**
Programme Manager
**E:** education@iob.ie

# Your personalised learning platform and mobile app

### Access exclusive content

Review the latest industry insights and thought leadership on financial services. Follow content channels in topics such as risk, compliance, digital innovation and ESG to stay up to date with sector trends and best practices.

### Learn at your own pace

Learn at a time and pace that suits you with the full library of archived IOB events and webinars. IOB Learn is your ticket to the conversations that matter.

### Explore your module and CPD resources

Find your module materials, resources and CPD content for professional designations on one dedicated platform.

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