

AI Governance Immersion • Geneva

Where AI meets multilateral governance — a signature immersion for postgraduate and executive youth

Artificial intelligence is reshaping economies, institutions and the very texture of daily life at a pace that outstrips regulation. The most consequential AI policy conversations of the decade are unfolding not in any single national capital but in Geneva — inside the International Telecommunication Union, at the WSIS+20 High-Level Event, and on the plenary stage of the AI for Good Global Summit.

The AI Governance Immersion • Geneva places postgraduate and executive-track participants at the centre of this global conversation. Over ten days, delegates attend flagship United Nations conferences, meet directly with senior UN officials and industry leaders, and undertake institutional visits to specialised agencies that are actively shaping the norms of the AI era.

This is the flagship postgraduate offering within the GYLDC Global Youth Immersion Series. It is designed for participants who intend to contribute — as diplomats, entrepreneurs, researchers or corporate leaders — to the multilateral systems that will govern artificial intelligence over the next generation.

PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE	
PILLAR	AI & Digital Governance
PRIMARY TIER	Postgraduate & Executive
AVAILABLE FOR	All tiers (separate cohorts)
DURATION	10–12 days
NEXT ITERATION	July 2027
LOCATION	Geneva, Switzerland
LANGUAGE	English (Chinese support)
COHORT SIZE	25–35
CERTIFICATION	GYLDC + GSLDC
FEE	On application



PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

©The Global Moment

Between 2024 and 2027, the multilateral system is undertaking the most significant re-architecture of global digital governance since the World Summit on the Information Society first convened in 2003. The WSIS+20 review process, the operationalisation of the UN Global Digital Compact, and the emerging Governing AI for Humanity framework are converging in Geneva. Participants in this programme are not spectators to these processes — they are in the rooms where they happen.

©What Participants Experience

Delegates spend the first four days inside the WSIS+20 High-Level Event and the AI for Good Global Summit, attending plenary sessions, ministerial dialogues and youth track workshops alongside official country delegations. Days five through eight comprise structured institutional immersions at the International Telecommunication Union, UNITAR, the World Trade Organization, the World Health Organization, UNEP, and the Graduate Institute Geneva (IHEID). The final phase is a capstone innovation challenge on AI for Sustainable Development, adjudicated by a panel of senior UN officials and industry executives.

©Why GYLDC

GYLDC delivers this programme in direct partnership with the Global SDGs and Leadership Development Center (GSLDC) — an ITU-affiliated centre with standing engagements across UNITAR, UNIDO, ITC and UNDRR. Delegates enter Geneva with GYLDC's institutional credentials, meet officials who are rarely accessible to outside groups, and leave with letters of recommendation from named UN principals where individual performance warrants.



© WHO THIS IS FOR

This programme is designed for postgraduate students, early-career professionals, and executives whose intended trajectory will bring them into meaningful contact with multilateral institutions, cross-border technology policy, or the governance of artificial intelligence.

Suitable participants typically include: graduate students in international relations, public policy, computer science, law or business; early-career professionals in technology firms, consultancies or government agencies working on digital policy portfolios; entrepreneurs building AI-enabled ventures with international ambitions; and mid-career executives whose organisations engage with UN agencies or international standards bodies. English working proficiency is required. Prior exposure to multilateral processes is welcomed but not necessary — the programme is designed to accelerate participants who are new to Geneva as much as to deepen those who already work in the ecosystem.

© LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the conclusion of the programme, participants will have:

- Developed a working knowledge of the current global AI governance architecture, including the WSIS+20 outcomes, the Global Digital Compact, and the mandates of the UN specialised agencies engaged in digital policy.
- Established direct professional relationships with senior officials at ITU, UNITAR, WTO, WHO and adjacent institutions, and with peer delegates from over twenty countries.
- Produced and defended a capstone innovation proposal applying AI to a defined Sustainable Development Goal, evaluated by a panel of United Nations experts.
- Acquired the professional competencies — negotiation, cross-cultural communication, evidence-based policy argumentation — that distinguish effective participants in multilateral processes.
- Formed a lasting connection to the GYLDC alumni network and clear pathways into follow-on UN convenings (UNGA Science Summit, COP, ASEAN Youth Summits).

© COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK

The programme is structured against the six global-competency dimensions of the United Nations Youth Leadership Development Programme:

CREATIVITY	LEADERSHIP	DECISION-MAKING
COLLABORATION	COMMUNICATION	EXECUTION



© CURRICULUM ARCHITECTURE

The programme unfolds in three sequenced phases, each building on the last. The pre-programme online module ensures every delegate arrives in Geneva conversant with the substantive material; the on-site immersion converts that grounding into direct experience and professional relationships; and the capstone crystallises the learning into a defensible output that participants take with them into their onward work.

PHASE 1	PHASE 2	PHASE 3
<i>Pre-Programme Online Module</i>	<i>On-Site Immersion in Geneva</i>	<i>Capstone Innovation Challenge</i>
▶ Foundations of the UN system and SDG framework ▶ Global AI governance — the WSIS process and the Global Digital Compact ▶ The role of ITU and specialised agencies in digital norm-setting ▶ AI ethics, intellectual property and cross-border regulation ▶ Delivered by former UN Under-Secretaries-General and senior specialists ▶ 8–10 hours across four weeks, culminating in a pre-arrival briefing pack	▶ WSIS+20 High-Level Event — plenary, ministerial and youth-track participation ▶ AI for Good Global Summit — keynote sessions, working groups, expo floor ▶ Structured visits: ITU, UNITAR, WTO, WHO, UNEP, IHEID ▶ Roundtable dialogues with UN youth envoys and senior officials ▶ Cross-cultural evening receptions with peer delegates from 20+ countries	▶ Team-based challenge: AI for a Sustainable Development Goal ▶ Coaching by ITU, UNITAR and GYLDC specialists ▶ 10-minute defence before a panel of UN experts and industry leaders ▶ Winning proposals recognised at the closing ceremony ▶ Selected teams invited to UNGA Science Summit and COP youth track

©SIGNATURE INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS

Note — Named partners are indicative. Delivery partners are curated on a case-by-case basis per cohort.

The AI Governance Immersion · Geneva is anchored in direct engagement with the institutions actively shaping global AI governance. Every partner listed below hosts a substantive session — a briefing by senior officials, a working meeting on live policy files, or a structured tour of programmatic work — rather than a lobby visit.



International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Convenor of the AI for Good Global Summit and WSIS process; host of the programme's core conference immersion, with dedicated youth-track access negotiated by GYLDC.



United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

GYLDC's institutional academic partner; delegates gain access to UNITAR's global training network as a delivery resource.



World Trade Organization (WTO)

Briefing on the digital trade agenda, AI in customs and supply chains, and the intersection of trade rules with cross-border data flows.



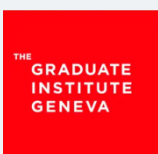
World Health Organization (WHO)

Session on AI in global health — regulatory frameworks, applications in diagnostics and epidemiology, and the ethics of health-data governance.



United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Working meeting on AI applications for climate action, biodiversity monitoring and circular economy — connecting the AI pillar to the programme's SDG capstone.



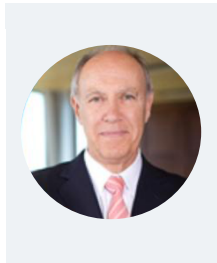
Graduate Institute Geneva (IHEID)

Academic session on the political economy of multilateral governance; a rare opportunity to hear from Geneva's leading research faculty on the emergent AI order.

©FEATURED FACULTY

Note — Named faculty are indicative. Delivery faculty are curated on a case-by-case basis per cohort and confirmed approximately 60 days prior to commencement.

Faculty are drawn from the ranks of former UN Under-Secretaries-General, sitting agency directors, and named specialists whose credentials open doors that no ordinary study tour can access. Every named faculty member below has been personally confirmed for the programme through GYLDC's institutional relationships.



Prof. Francis Gurry

Former Director-General, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO); Co-Chair, GSLDC Advisory Committee

Prof. Gurry led WIPO for over a decade and remains one of the world's most authoritative voices on the intersection of intellectual property, AI and international law. He delivers the programme's opening address on AI governance and personally chairs the capstone innovation challenge panel.



Fabrizio Hochschild

Former UN Under-Secretary-General; Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Digital Compact

Mr. Hochschild is the architect of the UN's digital cooperation agenda and led the negotiation of the Global Digital Compact. His session provides delegates with a first-hand account of how multilateral norms on AI are being negotiated in real time — material available in no other setting.

©SAMPLE ITINERARY

Note — Itinerary shown is illustrative. Actual programme is curated on a case-by-case basis per cohort.

The schedule below is illustrative of the 2025 and 2026 iterations. The exact 2027 programme will be released four months prior to commencement, aligned with the confirmed WSIS+20 and AI for Good agenda. Delegates receive a fully detailed handbook upon confirmation of enrolment.

DAY	FOCUS	SIGNATURE ACTIVITIES
Day 1	Arrival & Orientation	Arrival in Geneva; welcome briefing; introduction to the multilateral ecosystem; opening dinner with GYLDC leadership.
Day 2	WSIS+20 Opening	WSIS+20 High-Level Event opening ceremony at Palexpo; Youth Knowledge Café; Digital Changemakers High-Level Dialogue; International Youth Reception at ITU headquarters.
Day 3	AI for Good Summit	AI for Good keynote sessions with global technology leaders; workshops on AI ethics and standards; participation in the Innovation Factory pitch showcase.
Day 4	Institutional Visit I	Full-day programme at ITU: briefings on AI standards, digital inclusion policy, and the ITU Youth Digital Hub initiative; roundtable with ITU officials.
Day 5	Institutional Visit II	Morning at WHO on AI in global health; afternoon at WTO on digital trade and AI in supply chains; evening cultural programme.
Day 6	Weekend Immersion	Free day for reflection and independent exploration; optional visits to CERN and the Red Cross Museum; capstone team formation.
Day 7	UNEP & Sustainability	Working session at UNEP on AI for climate and biodiversity; capstone workshop with UNITAR specialists.
Day 8	Palais des Nations	Formal visit to the UN Office at Geneva; briefing at UNITAR headquarters; career pathways dialogue with UN officials.
Day 9	IHEID Academic Day	Academic session at the Graduate Institute Geneva; capstone rehearsals; coaching by GYLDC faculty.
Day 10	Capstone & Closing	Capstone innovation challenge presentations; expert panel adjudication; award ceremony; formal closing dinner and certification.

©WHAT PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE

Every delegate completing the programme leaves with a defined package of credentials, professional relationships, and pathways into further international engagement. These are structured to deliver durable value beyond the programme itself.

Formal Certification

Certificate of Completion co-signed by GYLDC and GSLDC, valid for academic and professional credit recognition.

Letters of Recommendation

Selected participants receive personal letters of recommendation from named UN principals — the strongest possible credential for graduate school and career applications.

Alumni Network Membership

Automatic entry into the GYLDC global alumni network — several hundred fellow participants across cohorts and geographies.

Follow-on Convenings

Priority nomination for the UN General Assembly Science Summit (September), COP youth track (November), and the ASEAN Youth AI Competency Challenge.

Publication Opportunities

Winning capstone proposals published in the International Journal of Youth & Sustainability (ijys.org), with editorial support from GYLDC faculty.

Internship & Career Access

Pathway into structured internship placements with GYLDC's UN agency, NGO and industry partners, subject to individual performance.



© APPLICATION

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis until each cohort fills. Early application is strongly advised, as visa processing for Switzerland requires a minimum of eight weeks and cohort places are typically filled four months prior to commencement.

- **Eligibility**

Postgraduate students, early-career professionals, executives. Working English required.

- **Cohort**

25–35 delegates, curated for diversity of background, geography and sector.

- **Fee**

On application. Fee covers programme delivery, materials, certification, and Geneva ground programme. International travel and accommodation are separate.

- **Contact**

admissions@ungylde.org · www.ungylde.org
