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



◎ 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.

◎ 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.

◎ COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK

The programme develops six core competencies:

- ✓ **Creativity**
- ✓ **Decision-making**
- ✓ **Diplomatic Communication**
- ✓ **AI Policy Literacy**
- ✓ **Collaboration**
- ✓ **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
Pre-Programme Online Module	*On-Site Immersion in Geneva*	*Capstone Innovation Challenge*
≈ 2–2.5 hrs / week · 4 weeks (8–10 hrs)	**10–12 days on-site · Geneva**	**Day 10 · capstone & closing**
▸ 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 GSLDC 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

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 GSLDC.

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.

◎SAMPLE ITINERARY

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 GSLDC faculty.
Day 10	**Capstone & Closing**	Capstone innovation challenge presentations; expert panel adjudication; award ceremony; formal closing dinner and certification.

◎WHAT PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE

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.