VIABLE AI FOR ORGANISATIONAL IMPACT

Catalysing AI innovation projects for strategic impact in complex organisations

CATALYSING AI

This 8-week programme is a strategic collaboration between The University of Manchester and AstraZeneca, tailored for AI and data science professionals working in R&D.

It will enable you to deliver high-impact, end-to-end AI proposals by collaborating with your peers, breaking down siloes and aligning your technical expertise to design measurable impact across your organisation.

This is a practice-driven programme where you develop viable AI proposals aligned with business strategy and funding criteria, ready for application.

DURATION
8 weeks

TIME
50 hours

DELIVERY
Online, asynchronous with live moderation

OUTCOME
Funded, scalable AI proposals aligned with R&D strategy

HOW DOES THE
PROGRAMME WORK?

Aligned with Astra Zeneca's commitment to funding strategic AI initiatives, this programme is backed by your organisation's senior leadership and led by The University of Manchester.

It provides the structure, support, and momentum needed to turn promising ideas into viable and actionable proposals.

Throughout the programme, you will:

+ Collaborate with colleagues driving innovation and technical experimentation to co-create AI innovations that will help to drive measurable business impact.

+ Be guided by leading researchers from The University of Manchester, renowned for its excellence in AI and data science, who will help you ground your proposals in the latest academic thinking and practical insight.

By the end of the programme, you'll present your proposal to internal decision-makers and cutting-edge researchers in the field.

Selected proposals will receive funding and implementation support, giving you the opportunity to elevate your profile and contribute to building an organisation powered by aligned, end-to-end AI innovation.

A PROGRAMME BUILT FOR IMPACT

With AstraZeneca as a strategic partner and participant, our idea-to-impact programme empowers you to co-create proposals for viable, high-impact AI transformation.

+ COLLABORATIVE BY DESIGN

Break siloes and foster cross-functional alignment to accelerate progress beyond the pilot stage.

+ GROUNDED IN INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH

Combine academic rigour with real-world industry insights to ensure proposals are viable and relevant.

+ ACCESS TO LEADING EXPERTISE

Learn from cutting edge researchers and domain-leading academics.

+ INTRODUCTION TO KEY CONCEPTS

Explore human factors and implementation strategies needed for digital transformation.

+ BUILT FOR CO-CREATION AND ITERATION

Use dedicated time and space to explore, innovate and iterate ideas, moving from isolated initiatives to scalable, production-ready proposals.

+ TIED DIRECTLY TO BUSINESS OUTCOMES

Tie your proposal to measurable business impact, ensuring investment translates into sustained transformation.

PROGRAMME OUTLINE

Over the course of the programme, you will:

Explore AI-enabled change across new initiatives, existing systems, and future preparedness.

Collaborate with peers to identify and co-design impactful applications of AI.

Review and analyse case studies from our groundbreaking research, learning from both successful and failed implementations.

Reflect on change management strategies to navigate organisational development.

Present and refine proposals with feedback from internal stakeholders and external experts.

Address governance challenges including explainability, data quality, uncertainty, and human factors.

LEARNING METHODS

You will co-design innovative AI proposals for application in R&D through applied, practice-driven learning, working in partnership with academics and researchers.

These proposals will reflect organisational priorities, and stakeholder needs and be developed in a form that supports real-world implementation.

The programme is designed to meet the needs of large organisations by offering flexible delivery options:

+ Fully asynchronous access allows you to engage with content flexibly, minimising disruption to work commitments while maintaining high levels of engagement and learning outcomes.

+ Scheduled live moderation sessions are communicated in advance, giving you the opportunity to participate in real-time interaction.

JOIN OUR PILOT COHORT

Be part of a pioneering collaboration between The University of Manchester and AstraZeneca.

As a pilot participant, you'll experience the full programme and help shape its future by sharing feedback on key areas such as:

+ The flexibility, relevance, and motivational impact of the course structure

+ Challenges and barriers to pitching AI transformation projects

+ Priority areas for AI innovation likely to emerge in project proposals

+ The relevance of case studies to current and upcoming change initiatives

Your insights will directly influence how we refine and optimise the programme. Participants will also have the opportunity to receive funding for their AI transformation proposals.

Spots are limited - express your interest today.

EXPRESS YOUR INTEREST ↗
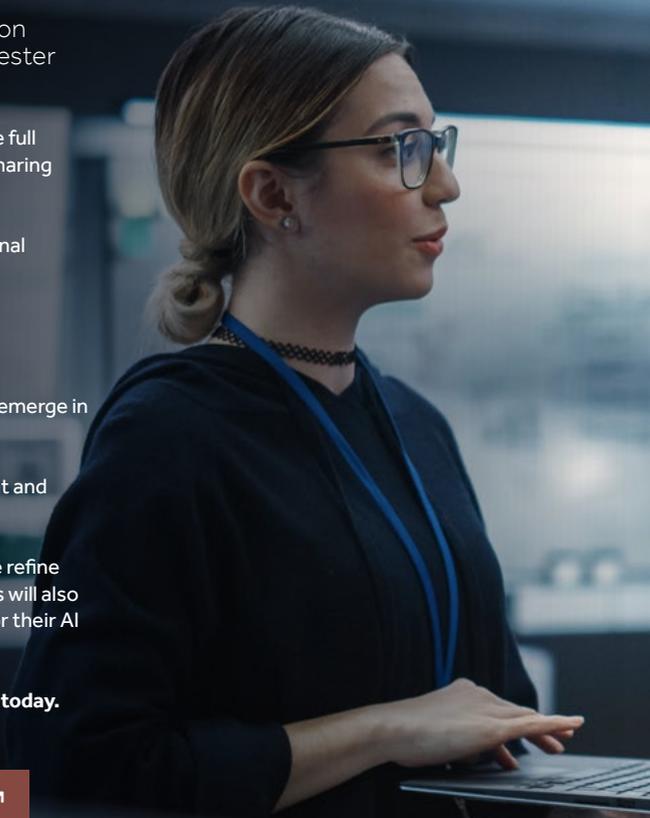
THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER EXCELLENCE

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

One of the UK's oldest departments, pioneering innovations from the world's first stored-program computer to the Turing Test.

Learn more

AI AT MANCHESTER

It began here, with Turing's seminal paper on AI. Today, we're designing AI that tackles global challenges and transforms lives.

Learn more

DATA SCIENCE

Our multidisciplinary approach to data science, supported by world-class facilities, integrates the full research lifecycle, linking theory to real-world applications in areas like bio-health informatics.

Learn more

GLOBAL RECOGNITION

Our University has been ranked the 50th most powerful global university brand in the Times Higher Education World Reputation Rankings 2025.

See our rankings

Frederic Williams and Tom Kilburn
with the 'Manchester Baby', 1948

CATALYSE AI FOR ORGANISATIONAL IMPACT.

Express your interest in the pilot cohort today

manchester.ac.uk/viable-ai

trevor.humphreys-2@manchester.ac.uk