

Introduction to AI

Course overview

Artificial intelligence (AI) has become a part of our daily lives in many ways, but for many of us, what exactly AI is and how it can be helpful for people who are blind or have low vision is not widely understood.

Vision Australia has created this course to help our clients better understand the role that AI can play in their lives. The course starts from the very beginning, unpacking what artificial intelligence actually is, before running through some practical exercises for participants to gain hands on knowledge of the tools available to them through AI.

Join our ten-week course to unlock the power of AI and learn ways to enhance your independence.

Week 1: What is artificial intelligence (AI)?

- Course overview and introductions.
- What do you think of when you think about AI?
- Explore the evolution of AI, from its inception to modern applications.

Week 2: AI in everyday life

- Learn how AI powers smartphones, smart home devices and other everyday technologies.
- Compare AI to other technology such as voice assistants and search engines.
- Discover how AI is revolutionising transportation, including autonomous vehicles and traffic management systems.
- Learn about other examples of AI incorporated into mainstream technology, such as Microsoft Copilot on Windows and ChatGPT skill on Alexa.

Week 3: Practical applications and future trends

- Discover how AI is used in fields like music composition, art generation and advertising.
- Review examples of AI generated content in the entertainment industry.
- Preview our intermediate course on AI and discuss any prerequisites (accounts with Be My Eyes, ChatGPT, Envision; installation of Seeing AI, etc.).

Week 4: Questions and review

- Learn about each app that will be used during the second half of the course, including ChatGPT, Seeing AI, Be My Eyes and Envision.
- Discuss feedback on the first portion of the course and address any queries on account setup for ChatGPT, Be My Eyes and Envision.

Week 5: Get 'hands on' with AI: ChatGPT

- Learn about the orientation of the ChatGPT app and different ways to access the ChatGPT service on other devices.
- Learn what sort of prompts can be given using ChatGPT.
- Take a picture and ask ChatGPT information based on the image.

Week 6: Get 'hands on' with AI: AI-powered accessibility tools

- Learn about how Be My Eyes and Seeing AI can be used to describe a captured photo or ask about text from a scanned image.
- Learn about the different AI tools incorporated in the Envision app.
- Trial accessibility tools for each program and discuss what practical tasks could be made easier by using these features.

Week 7: Alternatives to ChatGPT

- Learn about similar services to ChatGPT, including Perplexity, Copilot and Gemini.
- Review examples of inaccurate responses and how companies are working to update this technology.
- Discuss what sources are being used when asking about general queries using these tools.

Week 8: AI security and scams

- Discuss the ethical implications and biases in AI.
- Review examples of AI generated scams and other case based content.
- Discuss techniques to keep safe and identify when AI may be used in a potential scam.

Week 9: AI as a writing tool

- Using ChatGPT to write emails, letters and messages. Improve writing style through AI.
- Create stories using AI.
- Explore different writing styles using AI.
- Use ChatGPT to write an example of AI generated writing to share with the group.

Week 10: Conclusion

- Summarise program and future learnings
- Discuss the future of AI.
- Discuss how AI can be used for problem solving, such as planning a trip itinerary and asking what clothes to wear on a holiday.
- Learn about what other supports Vision Australia can provide going forward.