International Summer University 2026

Module: Ethics and Sustainability of Al

Level: Undergraduate



Module title	Ethics and Sustainability of Artificial Intelligence (AI)
Module content	Brief description "Ethics and Sustainability of Artificial Intelligence (AI)" focuses on AI's non-technical aspects. This module gives students a comprehensive understanding of the ethical and sustainable considerations of using and developing AI. By developing an understanding of the social, ethical, and ecological impact of AI technologies and learning how to deal responsibly with these challenges by AI, participating students will shape the future of responsible AI use.
Learning contents	Broadening knowledge The module broadens students' knowledge by enabling them to gain an in-depth understanding of AI technologies' diverse social, moral, and ecological impacts and critically examine them. By discussing fairness and bias in AI algorithms, data protection, and the sustainability of AI systems, students learn how to use AI technologies responsibly and ethically in their future professional practice.
	Utilization and transfer Students are qualified to transfer ethical awareness and sustainable approaches into AI practice, enabling them to deal responsibly with AI technologies in various professional contexts.
	Scientific innovation By focusing on ethics and sustainability in AI, this module promotes the development of innovative approaches and applications that overcome technical challenges and prioritize ethical guidelines and environmental sustainability, paving the way for thoughtful and future-proof AI innovations.
	Scientific self-understanding / professionalism This module strengthens students' scientific self-understanding by guiding them to recognize and internalize the importance of ethical considerations and sustainability principles in the research and development of AI and AI-based technologies. At the same time, it promotes their professionalism as they learn to deal responsibly with their work's social, ecological, and moral dimensions, making them prudent and ethical professionals in their future professional environment.
Teaching methods	lecture research-oriented projects group work literature study academic writing, including peer-reviewing
Requirements/prerequisites	Recommended prior knowledge An independent opinion and a willingness to engage in discussion are essential for this module; however, no prior knowledge of the basics of AI or within the social and ecological contexts is needed.

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HOCHSCHULE OSNABRÜCK
UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

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Recommended Literature	 VÉLIZ, Carissa. Oxford Handbook of Digital Ethics. Oxford University Press, 2023. ASIMOV, Isaac. Die Isaac-Asimov-Sammlung. Runaround. I, Robot, 1950. FUCHS, Christian. Digitale Ethik: Medien, Kommunikation und Gesellschaft, Band 5. Routledge, 2022. VAN WYNSBERGHE, Aimee. Nachhaltige KI: KI für Nachhaltigkeit und die Nachhaltigkeit von KI. AI and Ethics, 2021. ADAMS, Douglas; SCHWARZ, Benjamin. Per Anhalter durch die Galaxis, 1990.
Examination	 LAVISTA FERRES, Juan M.; Al for Good: Applications in Sustainability, Humanitarian Action, and Health, Wiley, 2024. Graded examination Presentation (with written elaboration) Duration and scope of the examination Presentation: approx. 20 minutes, associated paper: approx. 5 pages per person
Max. Participants Language of lecture	16 English
Promoter of the module	Prof. Dr. Julius Schöning
Module instructor / Home University	Prof. Dr. Julius Schöning, University of Applied Sciences Osnabrück, Germany