2025 | 2026

Uses and Ethics of AI for Humanitarian Response

Image generated using artificial intelligence.

🎓	**Credits**	2 ECTS
📅	**Dates**	**4 – 15 May 2026**
📍	**Format**	Online (combination of self-study time and live sessions). Live sessions are mandatory and take place twice a week, usually in early afternoon CET. *This online course requires 20-25 hours of weekly work. To fully engage in learning activities, we recommend that participants take some time off and adjust their professional activities accordingly, with flexibility in working hours.*
💬	**Language**	English
💵	**Fees**	• **Full price:** CHF 1'700 • **Partner rate (MSF, ICRC):** CHF 1'360 (20% discount) • **Special Rate for Government and NGO/CBO Staff:** CHF 850. Available exclusively to staff from local and national NGOs, CBOs, and government employees in low/middle-income countries. Proof of local employment and salary required.
👤	**Senior Lecturer**	Dr Valérie Gorin– valerie.gorin@unige.ch
📋	**Short description**	Artificial intelligence (AI) has increasingly reshaped humanitarian assistance and decision-making, from management information systems to data analysis, anticipatory action and biometrics. Often presented as a neutral tool for efficiency, prediction, and innovation, AI sytems in humanitarian settings raise many ethical, political, and operational challenges. This course offers a critical and practice-oriented exploration of the uses of AI in humanitarian contexts, focusing on responsibility and accountability. The course helps humanitarian professionals to examine how AI reshapes humanitarian principles and governance, relationships with affected populations, and partnerships with the private sector. Participants will learn to assess, evaluate, and question AI-based solutions, as well as the digital risks involved.

FACULTY OF MEDICINE
GENEVA CENTRE OF HUMANITARIAN STUDIES

UNIVERSITÉ DE GENÈVE

Learning outcomes of the course

At the end of the course, you will be able to:

- Classify different forms of AI currently used in humanitarian responses and determine the risks involved
- Assess the promises and limits of AI-driven solutions in humanitarian contexts and formulate operational recommendations
- Propose mitigation strategies for the ethical, political, and operational risks associated with AI, including bias, exclusion, surveillance, and data extraction
- Define organisational responsibilities and governance mechanisms related to AI use
- Design context-sensitive, responsible, and realistic approaches to AI adoption

Workload

Around 50 hours of work overall, including:

1. Asynchronous self-study activities (such as case studies, videos, recorded slideshows, readings, etc.)
2. Synchronous live sessions

Structure of the course

- What do we mean by AI in humanitarian action?
- Promises of AI: solutionism, techno-optimism and anticipatory governance
- Concrete uses of AI (assessment, communication, prediction)
- Working responsibly with the private sector and AI providers
- Digital risks: bias, discrimination, and systemic harm
- Surveillance, protection, and digital violence
- Governance, accountability, and organisational responsibility
- Mitigation strategies and operational recommendations for responsible innovation

Audience

- Professionals in the humanitarian, development or peacebuilding sectors involved in programme design, decision-making, governance, protection, data management, or innovation (i.e. programme managers and coordinators, policy advisors, innovation managers, security advisors, risk analysts, advocacy managers, etc.)
- Practitioners who are required to assess, evaluate, critically engage with AI-based tools and partnerships, rather than develop technical solutions themselves (i.e. protection and community engagement officers, CVA specialists, MEAL managers, early warning specialists, compliance officers, etc.)

Admission requirements

1. A university qualification (Bachelor's degree or equivalent)
2. At least three years of relevant professional experience
3. Excellent command of English

Application deadline and registration: