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المركز الدولي لأبحاث وأخلاقيات الذكاء الاصطناعي

The Global Academic Pledge on AI Ethics in Education

*A shared commitment by the universities of the world
to place human dignity at the heart of AI education*

FOREWORD

An Invitation to the World's Universities

Artificial intelligence is reshaping every discipline a university teaches — yet no discipline alone can teach humanity how to govern it.

Artificial intelligence now influences how societies learn, heal, trade, govern, and create. The graduates of today's universities will design, deploy, regulate, and live with AI systems whose consequences reach far beyond any single profession. The question before higher education is no longer whether to teach the ethics of AI, but how quickly and how deeply it can be woven into the formation of every student.

The International Center for Artificial Intelligence Research and Ethics (ICAIRE), headquartered in Riyadh and designated a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO, exists to advance AI research and ethics through international cooperation. In this mandate, ICAIRE invites universities in every region to sign this Pledge — a voluntary, public commitment to embed AI ethics across academic programs, in fulfilment of the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, adopted by 193 Member States in November 2021.

Preamble

The signatory institutions of this Pledge,

Guided by the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence and its foundational commitment to the protection of human rights and human dignity;

Recognizing that universities hold a unique trust: to form not only skilled professionals but conscientious citizens whose decisions will shape intelligent systems for generations;

Mindful of the duty to ensure that AI serves all of humanity — across languages, cultures, abilities, genders, and levels of development — and that its benefits do not deepen existing divides;

Convinced that ethics is not a constraint upon innovation but its compass, and that technical excellence without ethical formation is an incomplete education;

solemnly pledge to uphold the ten Articles set out in this document, and to report openly on their progress.

THE COMMITMENTS

The Ten Articles of the Pledge

These Articles focus on AI ethics in higher education but are not exhaustive — their principles apply equally to data science, digital governance, and any field where the responsible use of intelligent systems carries societal weight.

The Pledge in one sentence: every student, in every program, at every signatory university, shall graduate with both the capability to work with artificial intelligence and the ethical formation to direct it toward human flourishing.

Article 1 Curriculum Integration

We will embed AI ethics within our academic programs — through dedicated courses, modules within existing curricula, and interdisciplinary teaching — so that the study of AI's ethical, legal, and societal dimensions is not confined to a single faculty but is present wherever AI is taught or applied.

Article 2 Universal AI Literacy

We will ensure that every graduate, regardless of discipline, attains a foundational literacy in artificial intelligence: what these systems can and cannot do, where they fail, whom they can harm, and how to question them — pairing technical awareness with ethical reasoning.

Article 3 Faculty Capacity

We will invest in our educators. We will provide faculty across all departments with professional development in AI ethics and responsible AI pedagogy, recognizing that teachers cannot impart what they have not been supported to learn.

Article 4 Interdisciplinary Formation

We will connect computer science and engineering with philosophy, law, the social sciences, medicine, and the humanities, so that AI is studied as a human enterprise — shaped by values, institutions, and cultures, not by code alone.

Article 5 Academic Integrity in the Age of AI

We will establish clear, fair, and publicly stated policies for the use of AI in teaching, learning, and assessment — distinguishing legitimate assistance from misconduct,

requiring transparency and disclosure where AI is used, and safeguarding the authenticity of academic credentials.

Article 6 Ethical Research Practice

We will hold AI research conducted under our name to the highest standards of research ethics: meaningful human oversight, privacy and data protection, attention to bias and fairness, and review of high-risk applications before they proceed.

Article 7 Equity, Inclusion & Access

We will work to ensure that AI education narrows rather than widens divides — expanding access for under-represented groups, supporting linguistic and cultural diversity in AI curricula, and making AI learning accessible to persons with disabilities.

Article 8 Responsible Institutional Use

We will govern our own house. Where we deploy AI in admissions, assessment, administration, or student support, we will do so transparently, with human accountability, respect for data protection, and avenues for students and staff to question and appeal automated decisions.

Article 9 Societal & Environmental Responsibility

We will teach and practice AI in awareness of its broader footprint — its energy and environmental costs, its effects on labour and livelihoods, and its impact on the information ecosystem — and we will encourage research and curricula directed at AI for the public good.

Article 10 Global Cooperation & Open Exchange

We will join a global community of practice: sharing curricula and teaching resources, participating in joint programs and faculty exchange, and contributing our experience openly so that AI ethics education advances everywhere, not only where resources are abundant.

FROM COMMITMENT TO PRACTICE

Implementation & Accession

A pledge is judged by what changes in the classroom. This Pledge pairs each commitment with a practical pathway and the support of a global network.

A Three-Stage Adoption Pathway

Universities join at different starting points. Signatories are encouraged to progress along three stages, at their own pace:

STAGE	WHAT IT MEANS	INDICATIVE MILESTONES
Foundational	AI ethics enters the institution's agenda.	AI ethics module offered in at least one program; institutional policy on AI use in teaching and assessment adopted; faculty focal point designated.
Integrated	AI ethics becomes cross-cutting.	AI ethics embedded in multiple faculties; institution-wide AI literacy requirement for all incoming students; faculty development program running annually.
Leading	The institution becomes a reference for others.	AI ethics present across all relevant programs; oversight of institutional AI systems in force; curricula and research shared openly with the global network.

How a University Accedes to the Pledge

- 1. Sign.** The university's governing authority (Rector, President, or equivalent) signs the Instrument of Adherence on the final page and returns it to ICAIRE.
- 2. Designate.** The university names an institutional focal point for AI ethics education, who serves as liaison with ICAIRE and the signatory network.
- 3. Assess.** Within twelve months of signing, the university completes a baseline self-assessment against the ten Articles, using ICAIRE's accompanying self-assessment framework.
- 4. Report.** The university submits a brief annual progress report, contributing to a public global picture of AI ethics adoption in higher education.

What ICAIRE Offers Signatories

As a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO, ICAIRE provides signatories with:

1. Institutional support in developing an AI Ethics Blueprint across academic levels, drawing on consultations with academic experts from leading universities, including Stanford, and institutions across diverse regions;
2. Access to expert exchange and a global network of signatory universities, fostering knowledge-sharing and collaboration; and
3. A shared reporting framework aligned with the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, supporting consistent progress tracking and institutional accountability.

INSTRUMENT OF ADHERENCE

Signature of the Pledge

By the signature of its authorized representative, the institution named below accedes to the Global Academic Pledge on AI Ethics in Education and commits to its ten Articles.

THE SIGNATORY INSTITUTION

FULL LEGAL NAME OF THE UNIVERSITY / INSTITUTION

CITY AND COUNTRY

NAME AND TITLE OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE (RECTOR / PRESIDENT / VICE-CHANCELLOR)

SIGNATURE

DATE · OFFICIAL SEAL

RECEIVED ON BEHALF OF ICAIRE

NAME AND TITLE — INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE RESEARCH AND ETHICS

SIGNATURE

DATE · OFFICIAL SEAL

This Pledge is a voluntary, non-binding declaration of shared intent and creates no legal or financial obligation for either party. Completed instruments should be returned to ICAIRE at the address below; accession is confirmed upon acknowledgement by ICAIRE.

RETURN THE SIGNED INSTRUMENT TO

International Center for Artificial Intelligence Research and Ethics (ICAIRE) — 4349 Northern Ring Branch Rd, An Nakheel, Riyadh 12391, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
info@icaire.org · icaire.org

Alignment with the UNESCO Recommendation

Each Article of the Pledge operationalizes the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (2021) for the higher-education context.

PLEDGE ARTICLE	UNESCO RECOMMENDATION — CORE VALUES & PRINCIPLES	UNESCO RECOMMENDATION — POLICY ACTION AREAS
1 • Curriculum Integration	Human rights and dignity; proportionality and do no harm	Education & research; international cooperation
2 • Universal AI Literacy	Awareness and literacy; leaving no one behind	Education & research; communication & information
3 • Faculty Capacity	Awareness and literacy	Capacity building; education & research
4 • Interdisciplinary Formation	Multi-stakeholder and adaptive governance; living in peaceful, just & interconnected societies	Education & research; culture
5 • Academic Integrity	Transparency and explainability; human oversight and determination	Ethical governance & stewardship; education & research
6 • Ethical Research Practice	Safety and security; privacy and data protection; fairness and non-discrimination	Ethical impact assessment; research
7 • Equity, Inclusion & Access	Diversity and inclusiveness; fairness and non-discrimination	Social & human dimension; gender; culture
8 • Responsible Institutional Use	Responsibility and accountability; transparency and explainability; right to privacy	Ethical governance & stewardship; data policy
9 • Societal & Environmental Responsibility	Sustainability; peaceful and just societies	Environment & ecosystems; economy & labour
10 • Global Cooperation	Peaceful, just and interconnected societies; international solidarity	International cooperation; capacity building

The UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence was adopted by acclamation by 193 Member States at the 41st session of the UNESCO General Conference (November 2021). The full text is available at unesco.org