Hi, I'm going to help you with Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, cohort 2026 curriculum!

You can find out your curriculum here ↗



Here's the content:

Basics of curriculum
Compulsory part
Elective part
Pick the course wisely

Case study

These cases are based on the most frequently asked questions



Term 1 registration
Innovation Workshop
Term 8
Multi-term courses
Trajectory
Electives from Course Catalog
E&I courses from Course Catalog
Additional Thesis Research & Short-Term Project
Moving the course from one Stream to another
Low grade
Course Schedule overlaps
Free listener
ISP
Other questions

Let’s start from the basics:

What you must do during 2 years of study?

- get 120 ECTS credits and reach these numbers of ECTS credits for each stream
- cover all compulsory elements under each stream
- prepare and defend your Thesis

1 ECTS credit = 27 astronomical hours



Skoltech curriculum plan has five Streams:

- Stream 1 (STE) – 36 ECTS credits
- Stream 2 (Sector) – 12 ECTS credits
- Stream 3 (E&I) – 12 ECTS credits
- Stream 4 (Research & MSc Thesis Project) – 36 ECTS credits
- Stream 5 (Options) – 24 ECTS credits

On top of 120 ECTS credits you may take “Extracurricular activities” – maximum 20 ECTS credits overall, maximum 10 ECTS credits per year.

Your load per term must be minimum 12 and maximum 18 ECTS credits. During one academic year your load should not exceed 60 ECTS credits + 10 ECTS credits for “Extracurricular activities”.

Let’s talk about the compulsory part

These are the educational elements that you must complete.

- **The list of these educational elements will not be changed during 2 years of studies!**
- **No need to register for these courses. You will be registered by default by the Education Department.**

You have compulsory:

12 ECTS credits in Stream 1 (STE)	
Intelligent Data Analysis	6
Machine Learning	6
12 ECTS credits in Stream 2 (Sector)	
Industrial Immersion	12
6 ECTS credits in Stream 3 (E&I)	
Innovation Workshop	6
36 ECTS credits in Stream 4 (Research & MSc Thesis Project)	
Early Research Project	6
Thesis Research Project	12
Thesis Proposal	3
Status Review	3
Predefense	3
Thesis Defense	9
6 ECTS credits in Stream 5 (Options)	
Additional Thesis Research	6

Let's discuss the elective part:



The list of the elective courses might be updated. So check Course Catalog ↗ before each registration and Drop/Add period.

You have elective:

24 ECTS credits in Stream 1 (STE)

Foundations of Software Engineering for AI	3
AI-based Industrial Projects: from Concept to Minimum Viable Product	3
Optimization Methods in Artificial Intelligence	6
Information and Coding Theory	6
Numerical Linear Algebra	6
Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence	3
Introduction to Blockchain	6
Foundations of Gen AI	3
Advanced Topics of Gen AI	3
Deep Learning	3
Geometrical Methods of Machine Learning	3
Modern Applications of Information Theory	3
Bayesian Methods of Machine Learning	6
Models of Sequential Data	6
Reinforcement Learning	6
Modern Methods and Algorithms of Generative Artificial Intelligence	3
Natural Language Processing	3
Transformers and Large Language Models	3
Computational Imaging	3
Planning Algorithms in Artificial Intelligence	3
Perception in Robotics	6
Advanced Control Methods	6
Theoretical Methods of Deep Learning	3
Stochastic Methods in Mathematical Modelling and Artificial Intelligence	6
Statistical Learning Theory	3
Tensor Decompositions and Tensor Networks in Artificial Intelligence	6
Computational Imaging	3
Biomedical Imaging and Analytics	6
Neuroimaging and Machine Learning for Biomedicine	3
AI in Omics	3

6 ECTS credits in Stream 3 (E&I)

Entrepreneurship and Innovation Courses from Course Catalog	6

18 ECTS credits in Stream 5 (Options)

English Toolkit	3
Academic Writing Essentials	3
Nobel English for Academic Purposes	3
First Steps to Thesis in English	3
Master Your Thesis in English	3
Master Your Defense in English	3
Electives from Course Catalog	
Additional Thesis Research	
Short-Term Project	

How to pick the elective course wisely?

1. Read course Syllabus which is available in Course Catalog. ↗
2. Keep in mind your workload per term. It must be between 12–18 ECTS credits.
3. Discuss the list of elective courses with your Research Advisor.
4. Take into account course prerequisites. Hard prerequisites (specific course or courses) are indicated in curriculum, so students can plan their educational path. Hard prerequisites must be completed before you take the course.

MA030414	MA060122	Современные приложения теории информации	Modern Applications of Information Theory	3

5. Check the course schedule, so the courses of your choice do not intersect.
6. Some courses you may plan for Year 1 or for Year 2. Number of ECTS credits under the specific Term means that this course is recommended to be taken this Term, “X” means that you can still take the course later.

Optimization Methods in Artificial Intelligence	6	6				X		

Pay attention to: Term 1 registration



Term 1A (4 weeks in September) – you have a compulsory 6-credit "Innovation Workshop" course. No need to register. You will be registered by default by the Education Department.

Innovation Workshop	6	6	

Term 1B (4 weeks in October) – you have one multi-term compulsory course.

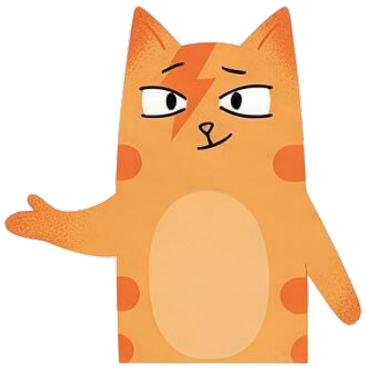
Intelligent Data Analysis	6	3	3

So, in Term 1 you already have 9 compulsory ECTS credits. No need to register. You will be registered by default.

In addition to this, in Term 1B you must receive at least 3 ECTS credits in the elective part. So, you have to pick up a course of your choice and register for it. Registration timeline is here. ↗

Innovation Workshop

What should I do if I'm a foreign student and I arrive late for "Innovation Workshop" (IW) due to valid reason?



In this case you are allowed to take "Innovation Workshop" in the second year of studies.

What if I can't attend "Innovation Workshop"?

Attendance is mandatory. If you do not have a valid reason (e.g. medical report) and you do not attend IW, you might get an unsatisfactory grade. In this case the Disciplinary Board will be involved.

Term 8

Term 8 is the final term of your educational program, so during it students are expected to work on their thesis only. For this reason make sure that all course workload is completed by the end of Term 7. In Term 8 you are allowed to take only courses related to your thesis.

Master Your Defense in English	3

Multi-term courses

How the workload is spread for a multi-term course?

The workload of a multi-term course is spread equally among the terms.

In compulsory STE you have a 6-credit multi-term "Intelligent Data Analysis" course in Terms 1B and 2. Your workload will be 3 ECTS credits for each Term for this course.



Intelligent Data Analysis	6	3	3			

When should I register for a multi-term course?

In order to get ECTS credits for a multi-term course you have to attend the course during all the terms as per curriculum plan!

You can register for a multi-term course only before the first term when the course starts. You can drop this course only during the Drop/Add period of the first term when the course starts.

Trajectory

What are “Trajectories” made for in the Elective Part of STE? Can I take courses from different trajectories?

In the Elective Part of STE there are 4 trajectories: NLP & LLM, AI in Robotics, Theory and AI in Biomedicine. Grouping courses into trajectories serves for navigation purposes only and aims to show that each group of courses is related to a particular topic. There’s no need for a student to stick to one trajectory when choosing a course, so you can freely take courses from different trajectories.

Electives from Course Catalog

Can I take a course which is not in my curriculum plan?



Yes, you can take a course which is not in your curriculum plan via “Electives from Course Catalog” educational element which is located in Stream 5 “Options” and “Extracurricular activities”.
However, keep in mind the following when registering for a course which is not in the curriculum plan:

- Course instructor has the right to limit the range of programs, students of which he/she is ready to take on the course. This info is in Syllabus, check it before registering;
- Such a course can be allocated only in Stream 5 “Options” or “Extracurricular activities” (NOT Stream 1 “STE”).

Why does “Electives from Course Catalog” appear in “Options” and “Extracurricular activities”?

This is done intentionally. So, you can take more courses from Course Catalog if you would like. Some will count in “Options”, some in “Extracurricular activities”.

ие студента» (24 з.е.) / Stream 5. "Options" (24 ECTS credits)	
Обязательная часть – 6 з.е. / Compulsory Part – 6 ECTS credits	
Дополнительное исследование по теме диссертации	Additional Thesis Research
Часть, формируемая участниками образовательных отношений – 18 з.е. / Elective Part – 18 ECTS credits	
Практикум английского языка	English Toolkit
Основы академического английского	Academic Writing Essentials
Английский язык сквозь призму работ нобелевских лауреатов	Nobel English for Academic Purposes
Диссертация по-английски: первые шаги	First Steps to Thesis in English
Английский язык для диссертации	Master Your Thesis in English
Подготовка к защите диссертации на английском языке	Master Your Defense in English
Курсы по выбору из каталога курсов	Electives from Course Catalog
Дополнительное исследование по теме диссертации	Additional Thesis Research
Исследовательский проект	Short-Term Project
го, максимум 10 з.е. за учебный год) / Extracurricular activities (maximum 20 ECTS credits overall, maximum 10 ECTS credits per year)	
Курсы по выбору из каталога курсов	Electives from Course Catalog
Период факультативных занятий**	Independent Study Period**

Why there is no total number of ECTS credits for the “Electives from Course Catalog”?

For Additional Thesis Research the load must be approved by the Research Advisor



If there is no total number of ECTS credits for the educational element, it means, you can take as many ECTS credits as it’s allowed under the compulsory or elective part of the stream.

Course Title	з.е.*/ ECTS* credits	Четверть, 1 год / Term Year 1				
		1	2	✻	3	4
Electives from Course Catalog			X		X	X

E&I courses from Course Catalog

Where can I find all E&I courses?

You may find all E&I courses in Course Catalog ↗ on the website under the E&I filter. The course Syllabi are also in there.

Please try to take all courses for E&I stream in the first year of studies, so that in the second year you can fully concentrate on the Thesis research.

Additional Thesis Research & Short-Term Project

What is the difference between “Additional Thesis Research” and “Short-Term Project” in terms of course content?



“Additional Thesis Research” is an additional research related to your Thesis, “Short-Term Project” is a research related to a project/research different from your thesis.

Moving the course from one Stream to another

Can I move a course from Stream 1 (STE) to Stream 5 (Options)?

Yes, you can easily do it. It might be relevant if you already have more credits in Stream 1 (STE) than it's needed.

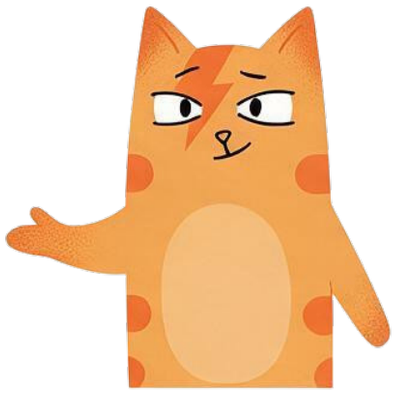
Can I move a course from Stream 5 (Options) to Stream 1 (STE)?

No, you can not move a course from Stream 5 (Options) to Stream 1 (STE) but you can move such a course to "Extracurricular activities".

Please inform the Education Department which courses need to be moved.

Low grade

I received a low grade for the course and I do not want to show it in Transcript, is it possible?



It’s not possible. In Transcript you will get all grades for all courses taken.

Can I retake the course if I get a low grade?

You can retake only a compulsory course if you get an “F” grade. With any other grade no course can be retaken.

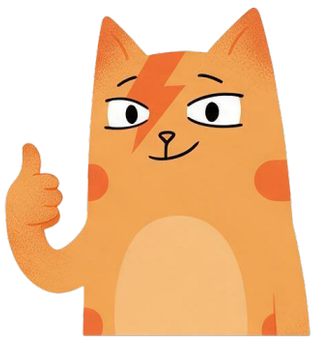
Course Schedule overlaps

I take two courses and the schedules of these courses overlap. What to do?

Please keep in mind that it is your responsibility to make sure you have no course overlaps. If the Education Department notices that there is an overlap in your schedule, the overlapping course will be dropped by our choice.

Free listener

Can I take a course in a free listener role?



Yes, you can but only with the course instructor's permission. If you get "ok" from the course instructor, inform the Education Department about your case by sending an email to education@skoltech.ru, copy the course instructor. Education will add you on a Canvas course page, so you have access to course materials. Keep in mind that the Course Instructor does not check the attendance, does not assess homework assignments, or other assignments for listeners.

ISP

What is ISP? Why does it have no credits in the curriculum plan?

Independent Study Period (ISP) is a special curriculum element, which lasts for 3 weeks in Winter Term (January) and consists of a variety of courses that help students to explore their interests beyond their main educational fields and make their academic learning truly interdisciplinary. Please note that ISP workload is counted in astronomical hours (not in ECTS credits). ISP is mandatory for MSc-1 students, so they must gain between 90 to 120 hours to get a “pass”. To find out more on ISP, please follow the presentation (ISP 2026).

Other questions

I have some other questions on my education in Skoltech, where should I go?

If unsure, contact:

- Center education team (aiml.support@skoltech.ru)

All unusual matters that seem confusing — discuss with Center education team first.

Some more contacts:

- Education Department office: E-R1-2064 (education@skoltech.ru)
- Program Director: Full Professor Tyukin Ivan Yurevich (i.tyukin@skoltech.ru)
- Program Coordinator: Research Scientist Katrutsa Aleksandr Mikhaylovich (a.katrutsa@skoltech.ru)
- Program Manager: Specialist Mariya Dronina (m.dronina@skoltech.ru)
- CAI Education Team room: A4-3023 Video instructions on how to get there ↗