



OPEN CALL

AI for Communities – Empowering People Through AI

Building AI Literacy Across Ireland

The Digital Hub invites applications for a 4-month residency to develop and pilot a community-centered model for AI learning and engagement. Working with educators, community organisations, businesses and local residents in Dublin 8, the successful resident will design and test the concept of an inclusive AI Literacy programme that helps people understand, explore and confidently use artificial intelligence in their everyday lives.

Background

As AI becomes increasingly embedded in education, work and public services, ensuring that everyone can participate in this transformation is essential. While Ireland is making significant investments in AI research, infrastructure and innovation, many people and organisations still lack the confidence, skills and opportunities to engage with AI in meaningful ways (Source: National Digital and AI Strategy, Digital Ireland – Connecting our People, Securing our Future).

This residency responds to that challenge by creating practical, accessible and inclusive experiences that demystify AI and demonstrate its potential for communities, education and small enterprise.

Through research, co-design and hands-on engagement, the residency will develop and evaluate an AI Literacy Programme that can be adapted and replicated by communities across Ireland.

About the Residency

The AI for Communities Residency will support an individual to research, design, curate and develop an inclusive community engagement programme centered on AI. Based at The Digital Hub, the residency will work

collaboratively with education providers, community organisations, businesses and local residents in Dublin 8 to co-create practical learning experiences and showcase activities that make AI accessible, relevant and useful for a wide range of audiences.

Rather than delivering a comprehensive public programme during the residency, the successful applicant will research, convene and co-design an AI Literacy programme, building partnerships, identifying thematic areas, consulting with communities and testing selected concepts to inform a practical, scalable framework for future delivery.

The programme aims to engage different interconnected audiences such as:

Education

- School
- Teachers
- Students
- Parents

Communities

- Community organisations
- Older adults
- Local residents
- Job seeders

Enterprises

- SMEs
- Entrepreneurs
- Social enterprises

The programme will explore AI through practical themes which could include:

- AI for Education
- AI for Small Business
- Responsible AI
- AI for Sustainability
- AI for Inclusion
- AI for Careers
- AI for Creativity

Objectives

The project aims to increase confidence and practical understanding of AI among diverse audiences by prototyping and testing an inclusive AI Literacy model that fosters engagement, dialogue and hands-on learning. It aims to build partnerships across academia, education, enterprise and community sectors, while producing open resources that others can adapt and reuse.

The project will also generate evidence to inform future AI literacy programmes, with a strong emphasis on supporting participants to develop the resilience and adaptability needed to navigate a rapidly evolving AI landscape. Through practical exploration, participants will be encouraged to use AI productively, communicate effectively about its opportunities and limitations, and critically assess its risks, ethical implications and responsible application.

Flagship Initiative – AI Literacy Programme

The AI Community Literacy Programme is envisioned as a welcoming space where people can explore AI together through conversation, hands-on experimentation and practical problem solving. Sessions might include demonstrations, creative making, discussions about ethics and misinformation and opportunities to test showcased AI tools. The residency should explore what an AI Literacy Programme could look like in an Irish community context and develop a model that others can adopt.

Residency Scope

The residency will include the following activities:

- Research national and international examples of community-based AI engagement and identify best practice in AI literacy, participation and inclusive programme design.
- Engage with education providers, community organisations, enterprise partners, researchers and local stakeholders to understand needs, identify opportunities and build collaborative partnerships.
- Co-design and deliver a pilot programme of AI Literacy Programme sessions and events with and for the Dublin 8 community.
- Identify and/or develop engaging themes, learning activities and practical resources that demonstrate accessible, responsible and creative applications of AI.
- Curate a network of guest speakers, facilitators and collaborators from academia, industry, the public sector and civil society.
- Produce an AI Literacy Programme to be tested in 2027.

Deliverables

- AI Literacy Programme
- Community workshops / Thematics
- Partners and Speakers network for the delivery of the programme
- Evaluation framework
- Final residency report
- Educational resources
- Recommendations for the delivery of a scalable AI Literacy Programme in Dublin 8.

Eligibility

The residency is open to individuals or multidisciplinary teams with expertise in AI literacy, AI technologies, community engagement, education, digital innovation or social innovation.

We welcome applications from AI application experts who possess:

- Proven experience in applying design thinking methodologies to real-world challenges.
- A mix of core skills, **deep AI technical knowledge, practical problem-solving**, and **specialized domain experience**
- Strong communication skills and the ability to work in a collaborative environment.
- The expert must be resident in Ireland/Europe.
- The expert must be available to commence and undertake the residency before the end of 2026 and to have a regular presence on site at The Digital Hub.

Residency Offer, Support and Fees

The residency offers:

- A fee of €12,000 for the resident designer/facilitator (VAT inclusive).
- Production budget of €3,000 for materials, equipment, venue access, community engagement and showcase costs.
- Office/desk space on The Digital Hub campus.
- Access to The Digital Hub facilities and community.
- Networking and collaboration opportunities with SMEs, technologists, creatives, and local organisations and ecosystems such as Smart D8.
- Support from The Digital Hub team in brokering introductions within the Dublin 8 network.

Application Process

Applicants should submit:

- Updated CV.
- Portfolio of relevant work, especially projects involving AI expertise and community engagement.
- Cover letter including a high-level outline of how you would deliver the Residency.

How to Apply

- Please send your application materials (CV, portfolio, and cover letter) as a single PDF file (maximum 10 MB) by email to info@thedigitalhub.com with the subject line: AI for Communities Residency – [Your Name].
- Applications must be received by 23:59 (Irish time) on Friday, 9th October.
- Only electronic submissions will be accepted.
- Shortlisted applicants may be invited to attend an online or in-person interview at The Digital Hub in mid-to-end October 2026.

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be assessed on:

- Quality, creativity, and feasibility of the proposed approach.
- Track record in AI expertise and literacy and community engagement.
- Capacity to deliver tangible outputs within the residency period and budget.

General Conditions

- Late submissions will not be accepted.
- The selection panel, whose decision is final, has the right to clarify any issue which may arise in the course of selection.
- Designers may be asked to supply the names and contact details of referees as part of the selection process.
- The Digital Hub reserves the right not to award commissions and, in this instance, deserves the right to pursue other selection processes.

Terms and Conditions

- The Digital Hub will not insure equipment belonging to the resident.
- The appointed resident must undertake an induction covering The Digital Hub procedures, events management requirements and adhere to The Digital Hub Health & Safety guidelines.
- The appointed resident will be responsible for the security of their personal property on The Digital Hub campus. The appointed resident

will have to supply an up-to-date tax clearance certificate prior to signing the contract and for the duration of the commission.

- Applicants should note that fees awarded are VAT inclusive, (whether VAT liability lies with the appointed resident or the Commissioner).