

AI in Teaching and Learning one-day conference – 29th June 2026

Schedule:

Welcome & Introduction

Seminar 1: Student pathways to Computer Science at UEA

Workshop 1: LLM Fundamentals – from Bag of Words to GPT

Most of us are using Generative AI tools in one form or another on a daily basis. But how does it work? This workshop will explain foundational concepts from the recent developments in AI that make this technology work.

Outcomes

- Understand what makes the "magic" of GPT and Large Language Models (LLMs) possible via foundational concepts of word embeddings and the transformer architecture.
- Get an intuition of word embeddings as numbers projected in vector space.
- Distinguish components of the self-attention mechanism in transformer models.
- Adjust hyperparameters of GPT models to control output randomness.
- Understand how geometric similarity approaches can be used to represent similarity between words.

Workshop 2: Building a local LLM - Ollama open source code is one of the easiest way to run open-weight language models (LLMs) locally on your computer. It handles downloading, running, and managing models with simple commands. Everything runs on your laptop — no API keys, no usage limits, and your data never leaves your machine.

Outcomes

- Getting Started with Ollama
- Text Classification for Research
- LLM-as-Judge: Evaluating Text Quality
- Batch Processing Research Data
- Best Practices and Tips

Seminar 2: Round table discussion: Use of LLM's in teaching.

- How can LLM's support teaching and learning?
- What do institutions school leaders to know when developing LLM policies for schools?
- Which is the best option – the pros and cons of building your own LLM.