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# EU-CONEXUS PhD Summer School 2026

AI FOR IMPACT – FROM SMART TOOLS TO ETHICAL  
DECISION-MAKING

13–17 July 2026 | Nicosia, Cyprus



Hosted by Frederick University

# WELCOME

Join an intensive international training experience dedicated to EU-CONEXUS doctoral students. EU-CONEXUS PhD Summer School is a flagship international programme designed to develop research and professional skills, alongside interdisciplinary collaboration among PhD candidates across the alliance. As with previous editions, the 2026 School (6th edition) offers a research-driven, skills-oriented learning experience that strengthens scientific careers and enhances doctoral training opportunities. The focus this year is the ethical and impactful use of AI in research practice, exploring how smart digital tools can generate scientific results while ensuring responsible, transparent and ethical decision-making.



## What you will gain and outcomes

- Practical experience and transversal skills
- Expanded international research network
- Tools to recognize and mitigate ethical risks
- Gain practical understanding of AI methods used in contemporary research
- Learn how to address ethics challenges in AI
- A deeper understanding of AI's role in creating societal impact
- Strengthen transferable skills valued inside and outside academia.
- A certificate of completion and suggested follow-on actions for research progression

## Programme Format

Over five days, the Summer School includes:

- Keynote lectures by internationally recognised experts
- Interactive workshops on AI methods, tools, and ethical challenges
- Collaborative project work with peers from the alliance
- Ethics and governance discussions exploring responsible AI practices
- Site visits and cultural events introducing Nicosia and Cypriot contexts

# Who Can Apply?

PhD candidates from EU-CONEXUS partner universities and associated institutions from any research area are invited to apply. The Summer School welcomes researchers who want to integrate AI into their doctoral projects or deepen their understanding of AI's societal dimensions.



## Practical Information

### DURATION:

13–17 July 2026 (arrival on 12th and departure on 18th)

### FORMAT:

On-site in Nicosia, Cyprus

### LANGUAGE:

English

### PARTICIPATION:

Free. EU-CONEXUS will cover travel, accommodation, and meals for 3 participants per partner university, the selection will be made by each university

### CREDITS:

May be eligible for ECTS recognition depending on home university regulations

# How to Apply

Details about the application process, deadlines, selection criteria, and required documents will be made available on the official EU-CONEXUS website [here](#).

PhD students enrolled and active in PhD Open Courses from the [EU-CONEXUS Catalogue](#) may have priority in being selected.

**Be part of an international community of thinkers and innovators** at the EU-CONEXUS PhD Summer School 2026 — where AI meets impact, ethics, and sustainable research excellence!

# Frederick University

Frederick University is one of the nine partner institutions of the EU-CONEXUS alliance and a dynamic private university in Cyprus with a strong European orientation. Established with a clear mission to combine academic excellence with societal relevance, the university has developed a reputation for:



**Applied and impact-driven research**, particularly in engineering, sustainable development, maritime studies, energy, education, and social sciences.



**International collaboration**, participating in European research and mobility programmes such as Erasmus+ and Horizon Europe.



**Innovation and entrepreneurship**, fostering links with industry, public authorities, and civil society.



**Student-centred education**, with small group interaction, mentoring culture, and emphasis on practical skills.

Frederick University actively supports interdisciplinary dialogue, bringing together researchers from diverse fields to address contemporary challenges such as sustainability, digital transformation, smart cities, and ethical governance of emerging technologies. Its modern campus in Nicosia provides advanced laboratories, research facilities, collaborative learning spaces, and an inclusive academic environment that encourages critical thinking and international engagement.



# Nicosia, Cyprus

Nicosia, the capital of Cyprus, is a city where centuries of history coexist with a vibrant modern European identity. As the island's political, cultural, and academic centre, it offers a distinctive setting for scholarly exchange. Key highlights include:

**A unique historical landscape,** with Venetian walls, medieval architecture, museums, and multicultural heritage reflecting Greek, Ottoman, and European influences.

**A growing innovation ecosystem,** hosting universities, research centres, start-ups, and public institutions engaged in digital and green transitions.

**A Mediterranean crossroads,** connecting Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa — ideal for intercultural dialogue and international networking.

**Lively academic and social life,** with cafés, cultural festivals, exhibitions, and professional events that extend learning beyond formal sessions.

For doctoral researchers, Nicosia offers more than a venue — it provides an immersive environment where intellectual debate, cultural discovery, and professional networking naturally intersect. The city's scale allows for close interaction and community building, while its international outlook supports meaningful academic collaboration.

