

IDSA x Ars Electronica FOUNDING LAB

Call for Students

Apply Now!

IDSA x Ars Electronica
FOUNDING LAB



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FOUNDING LAB Summer School
August 23 – September 13, 2023

FOUNDING LAB Fall Term
October 2023 – January 2024

Application period opens: June 8, 2023

Extended Application Deadline: July 6, 2023 – 11:59pm CEST

Notification of selected applicants: July 14, 2023

 **Federal Ministry**
Republic of Austria
Education, Science
and Research

FOUNDING LAB

Shaping the digital transformation

We are delighted to announce an open call for students worldwide to join us in creating a university that tackles the challenges of an increasingly digital world. We welcome applications from students with diverse backgrounds including but not limited to Scientists and Artists, Engineers and Designers, Scholars and Practitioners, Entrepreneurs and Visionaries, as well as everyone in-between and beyond. We seek those passionate about questioning, discussing, and shaping the digital transformation of our world.

The Focus of the Program

A summer school and Fall Term on the facts, figures, and futures related to infrastructure, code, machines, the virtual worlds, media, and governance systems that are the founding blocks of digital transformation. It will question, discuss, and shape the impact of digital transformation on the future of nature, tech, and people. The program will be co-created by students and experts from diverse fields and backgrounds. Applications from all disciplines are welcome!

IDSA x Ars Electronica FOUNDING LAB **Summer School**

as part of the Ars Electronica Festival
3 weeks to create impulses for the digital
transformation of our world
75 Students, 25+ Fellows, Experts, and Mentors

and

IDSA x Ars Electronica FOUNDING LAB **Fall Term**

3 x 8-day workshops across 4 months and online
mentoring to share expertise and gain new insights
25 Students, 25+ Fellows, Experts, and Mentors

Structure

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IDSA Institute of Digital Sciences Austria

The IDSA x Ars Electronica FOUNDING LAB's purpose is to create impulses for IDSA, a pioneering university in Linz, Austria.

IDSA was founded in 2022, its research and teaching are dedicated to all dimensions of digitalization and its transformative effects on science, art, society, and the economy. The university is built on interdisciplinarity and inter-university cooperation. It aims to attract students who are interested in the interaction of technical studies, natural sciences, economics, law, social sciences, humanities, cultural studies, and artistic disciplines.

Within IDSA x Ars Electronica FOUNDING LAB Students and IDSA Fellows from diverse fields and backgrounds will collaborate in questioning, discussing, and shaping the impact of digital transformation on the future of nature, tech, and people.

IDSA x Ars Electronica FOUNDING LAB

Addressing the major challenges of the future through interdisciplinary innovation.

The FOUNDING LAB is a collaborative effort between the Institute of Digital Sciences Austria (IDSA) and Ars Electronica. Its aim is to identify, develop, and present new areas, approaches, and formats that address the challenges of digital transformation. By overcoming disciplinary boundaries, it confronts the contradictory and conflicting realities of today and cultivates the skills to navigate an increasingly digital world.

Experts, leading thinkers, scientists, and innovators from all disciplines convene to explore and define new pathways towards transformative digital change. The Ars Electronica Festival serves as a public platform to showcase initial ideas and outcomes from the FOUNDING LAB Forum. The results are further explored within a 6-Chapter seminar series during the FOUNDING LAB Fall Term.

The FOUNDING LAB is inspired and builds upon previous initiatives by Ars Electronica, such as the **Future Innovators Summit**, the **Festival University**, the **Transformation Lounge**, and the **Ars Electronica Futurelab Academy**.

IDSA x Ars Electronica FOUNDING LAB Call for Students

Become a FOUNDING LAB Student, share ideas, and co-create the digital transformation!

Global challenges of tomorrow require new strategies—rooted in creativity and co-creation. The FOUNDING LAB serves as an **impulse for IDSA**, a **pioneering university** that shapes the digital transformation. It test-runs new knowledge-creation strategies influencing the future of **nature, tech, and people**. Based on far-reaching trans-disciplinary collaborations, the FOUNDING LAB combines imagination with implementation.

Key Facts

	FOUNDING LAB Summer School	FOUNDING LAB Fall Term
Commitment	3 weeks (As part of the Ars Electronica Festival)	4 months (3 x 8-day workshops in Linz + online mentoring and Deep Dive Talks.) This seminar series is compatible with other university enrollments. Or optional: Stay in Linz for the entire Fall Term.
Date	August 23 – September 13, 2023	October 2023 – January 2024
Time requirement	Full-time	Part-time Students can stay enrolled in their universities and visit the FOUNDING LAB program as a high-level course.
ECTS*	4	12
Attendance required	100%	At least 80%
Students to be selected	max. 75	max. 25
Target group	PhD & Master Students from all disciplines	
Benefits	Travel, accommodation and visa costs during the FOUNDING LAB Summer School as well as meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner)	Stipend of €1,300.– per month as well as travel costs for 3 round trips and up to €2,000.– production costs
Location	Linz, Austria	Linz, Austria and online
Language	English	
Faculty	25+ Fellows, Experts, and Facilitators	
Application fees	There is no application fee.	
Application Deadline	July 6, 2023 – 11:59pm CEST	

ECTS* The European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) is a standard means for comparing academic credits, i.e., the „volume of learning based on the defined learning outcomes and their associated workload“ for higher education across the European Union and other collaborating European countries

Be part of a pioneering university for digital transformation!

Program Details

The FOUNDING LAB student program includes two parts: The FOUNDING LAB Summer School as part of the Ars Electronica Festival and the FOUNDING LAB Fall Term.

Prospective FOUNDING LAB Students can apply for only one part but are invited to contribute to both. Preference will be given to applicants who join both program parts.

The FOUNDING LAB Summer School

August 23 – September 13, 2023, onsite in Linz.

The FOUNDING LAB Fall Term

October 2023 – January 2024

3 x 8-day workshop sessions onsite in Linz, online onboarding, and mentoring sessions as well as 12 online Deep Drive Talks.

Students can stay registered in their home university and enroll in the FOUNDING LAB as a high-level seminar program. Students who want to stay for the full duration of the Fall Term in Linz, will be provided with workspaces at IDSA.

Upon completion, Students will receive a program diploma granted by the Institute of Digital Sciences Austria (IDSA). The FOUNDING LAB Summer School is the equivalent of 4 ECTS (100% participation), the FOUNDING LAB Fall Term is equivalent to 12 ECTS (minimum 80% participation).

Students

FOUNDING LAB Summer School

August 23 – September 13, 2023

Duration: 3 weeks, onsite

Venue: POSTCITY Linz

Who: 75 Master/PhD students
(25 will be transferred to the Fall Term)

Faculty

FOUNDING LAB Forum

September 6 – 10, 2023

Duration: 5 days, onsite

Venue: POSTCITY Linz

Who: 25+ Fellows, Experts and Facilitators

FOUNDING LAB Fall Term

October 2023 – January 2024

Duration: 4 month online and onsite

Who: 25 students, Faculty of 25+ Fellows, Experts, and Facilitators

FOUNDING LAB Summer School

August 23 – September 13, 2023

The FOUNDING LAB Summer School is the inaugural event of the FOUNDING LAB and will culminate in the FOUNDING LAB Forum as the central component of this year's Ars Electronica Festival. It benefits from the inspiring atmosphere of the festival with its manifold exhibitions, performances, concerts, and discursive programs.

The focus lies on the co-creation of knowledge between Fellows and Students to tackle the challenges of an increasingly digital world.

Who Owns the Truth?

With "Who Owns the Truth?" as this year's title of the Ars Electronica Festival, the FOUNDING LAB Summer School focuses directly on key challenges of our time: truth and ownership, interpretive authority, and sovereignty. The topics serve as a guiding structure with the Students, Fellows, and Experts contributing to them:

Can truth be owned? Is there a right to truth? If yes, does it belong to anyone in particular? What control and responsibility are associated with it? Related questions include:

Who owns nature?
Who owns infrastructure?
Who owns technology?
Who owns data?
Who owns knowledge?

The questions will be discussed with relation to the 6 Chapters of the Fall Term.

Assisted by IDSA x Ars Electronica FOUNDING LAB Facilitators, students meet and exchange with 25+ **trans-disciplinary international Fellows and Experts**, who contribute their insights, experiences, and innovative ideas.

The FOUNDING LAB Summer School is held at the Ars Electronica Festival facilities in Linz, Austria and will be supported by FOUNDING LAB Facilitators.



Summer School Structure

Week 1 **Introduction**

↓ In the first week the theme and premises of the FOUNDING LAB Summer School are established. The integration of Artificial Intelligence into our daily lives presents unprecedented opportunities for ground-breaking advancements, while simultaneously carrying risks of disrupting society in far-reaching ways. During the initial phase, participants will examine the interplay between nature, tech, and people, focusing less on specific technical, scientific aspects, and more on understanding the overarching connections and the underlying structures and systems. ↓

Week 2 **Fact-checking and Developing Ideas**

↓ During the second week, participants will fact-check the current state of digital transformation. What are the sources of information and which areas and structures shape public opinion? Who designs technology in accordance with human values? Who owns the truth? What about Nature? Land? Technology? Data? Knowledge? What options do we have to leverage digital technology for the betterment of society, and what are their feasibility and success rate? And what will be the role of universities? ↓

Week 3 **Step on Stage**

The third week is dedicated to presenting and refining the ideas and strategies, positions and statements that have been developed during the first two weeks. All Students will engage in public presentations within the framework of the Ars Electronica Festival, as part of the FOUNDING LAB Forum and further discuss and develop their proposals together with experts and the public.

The FOUNDING LAB Summer School offers inspiration lectures, participatory presentations, hands-on workshops, and mentoring sessions on the topic “Who owns the truth?”. Students take part in excursions and visit leading organizations and locations in Linz and its surroundings. Several community events, such as welcome and closing dinner, barbeques etc. will take place throughout the summer school.

The FOUNDING LAB Summer School and Forum are part of the Ars Electronica Festival and benefit from the diverse expertise of the festival protagonists and its manifold exhibitions, performances, concerts, and discursive programs.

FOUNDING LAB Fall Term

October 2023 – January 2024

The FOUNDING LAB Fall Term continues the reflections on the topics of the FOUNDING LAB Summer School and Forum by exploring the 6 thematic Chapters highlighted below. Art Thinking represents a fundamental aspect of each course.

The **25 trans-disciplinary Master's and/or PhD Students** will meet with 25+ Fellows and Experts to contribute and exchange their insights, experiences, and innovative ideas.

The program consists of **3x8-day onsite workshops**, an accompanying half-day online onboarding session, online mentoring for project work, as well as **12 online Deep Dive Talks**.

These 3x8-day workshops are held at the IDSA facilities in Linz, Austria. FOUNDING LAB Facilitators assist the work and support a group of 4-5 Students each throughout the term.

Program Timeline

Chapters	Founding Themes*	Timeframe ONSITE, Linz	Deep Dive Talks ONLINE
Chapter I	Infrastructure Heavy Lift – The infrastructure to run the code	04.–07.10.2023	12 keynotes to spotlight applications of digital systems and services in various fields. → open to the general public
Chapter II	Data & Code Soft Wars – The data, code and models that run our lives	08.–11.10.2023	
Chapter III	Machines, Robots & Tangibles Moral Machines – Living with robots that care and scare	22.–25.11.2023	
Chapter IV	Interfaces & Visualizations Intangible Worlds– The Reality of the Virtual	26.–29.11.2023	
Chapter V	Media Fake, Re-check, Double Check – A new civic media contract in the age of AI	17.–20.01.2024	
Chapter VI	Digital Society & Policy Tech-diplomacy – Negotiating with Nature, Tech and People	21.–24.01.2024	

Each Chapter starts with a virtual onboarding session.
FOUNDING LAB Event: January 2024

*Ars Electronica and IDSA reserve the right to make program changes (both in terms of times and themes).

ONSITE:

6 Program Chapters

Besides structured learning and knowledge exchange, the onsite program comprising the 6 Chapters offers an exceptional opportunity to meet other Students, Fellows, and Experts in person and to participate in onsite social activities and excursions.

There is also the opportunity for Students to stay the full Fall Term at IDSA, in Linz Austria and conduct their own research onsite. IDSA will provide workspace and support. Please indicate your interest in a full term stay in the application form.

ONLINE:

Onboarding Sessions, Mentoring and Deep Dive Talks

Before each Chapter, there will be a half-day online onboarding meeting to introduce the Chapter, online mentoring throughout the Fall Term will be available.

The FOUNDING LAB will also host 12 Deep Dive Talks. These online keynote and discussion sessions provide insights into practical applications of digital systems and services.

FOUNDING LAB Fall Term Project

Students are required to complete a Fall Term project that thematically relates to either one of the first four Chapters outlined in the Fall Term Program Structure. The project can take all formats and can be developed either individually or in working groups.

Who will work with you?

FOUNDING LAB Fellows and Experts

Students will have the opportunity to exchange and develop ideas together with the Faculty. They are experts, thought leaders, and innovators that share their knowledge and guide the Students through the Summer School and the 6 Chapters of the Fall Term.

FOUNDING LAB Facilitators

Facilitators will support the Fellows and the Students throughout the Summer School and Fall Term. Each group will be assigned a dedicated facilitator to guide participants along their journey.

Ideal Candidate

We recognize that the digital transformation of our society and economy is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon that has far-reaching implications for a wide range of disciplines and fields. Therefore, we are dedicated to fostering a **trans-disciplinary approach**.

We seek applicants from diverse fields and cultural backgrounds, not limited to technology, for a trans-disciplinary and intercultural program. The FOUNDING LAB program is open to Master's and/or PhD Students, but also welcoming those to participate, who can demonstrate equivalent expertise.

The Summer School requires full participation onsite, while the Fall Term is split into Chapters that take place onsite, while onboarding sessions, Deep Dive Talks, and group work are happening online.

The program is looking for international students who embrace **forward-thinking approaches to learning** and the co-creation of knowledge within the fields of technical and digital infrastructures, data, code and AI, machines and robots, interfaces and virtual worlds, and the transformation of media and policymaking. We welcome applicants from all backgrounds, including practitioners, from all fields, including but not limited to:

AI Engineers, Architects, Biologists, Chemists, Computer Scientists, Dancers, Data Scientists, Economists, Experimental Physicists, Genetic Engineers, Hackers, Historians, Journalists, Mathematicians, Musicians, Neuroscientists, Philosophers, Policy Experts, Sociologists, Theologists... and everyone in-between and beyond.

Entry Requirements, Benefits and Commitment

There are no registration or tuition fees for this program.

Submissions to only one program part are accepted, but preference will be given to applicants who are available for the Summer School and Fall Term.

Successful applicants will receive the following benefits:

- A welcome package.
- Full access to all program parts of the FOUNDING LAB Summer School and the Ars Electronica Festival, including full festival pass and full access to all discursive events, concerts, workshops, and social activities.
- Full access to the FOUNDING LAB Fall Term, including workshops, Deep Dive Talks, excursions, and social activities.

Part I: FOUNDING LAB Summer School

- We will cover your travel, visa costs, and accommodation during the program.
- We will provide the 3 main meals a day (breakfast, lunch, dinner).
- Students are expected to be onsite in Linz for the entire duration of the Summer School (August 23 – September 13, 2023).
- Bachelor's degree (prospective Students that can prove their expertise are invited to participate without holding a degree).
- Students will work on a Summer School project to be presented in the frame of the Ars Electronica Festival. The project can be developed individually or in groups.

Part II: FOUNDING LAB Fall Term 2023

- Stipend of €1,300.– per month (October 2023 – January 2024; paid on a monthly basis).
- Lump-sum grant for three round trips (following Ars Electronica's Green Travel policy and after provisions of travel receipts) to attend the in-person programs. Students are responsible for making their own arrangements for accommodation, food, and other personal expenses during the Fall Term.
- Up to €2,000.– for course materials.
- Bachelor's degree (prospective Students that can prove their expertise are invited to participate without holding a degree).
- Workspace at the Institute of Digital Science Austria (IDSA) for the duration of the Fall Term.
- All selected Students are required to complete their Fall Term project, to be presented at the final event, taking place in January 2024. The project can be developed individually or in groups supported by the FOUNDING LAB Fellows, Experts and Facilitators.

Application

Prospective Students should submit a proposal **written in English through the official submission platform**. Submissions sent via email will not be accepted. A jury comprised of representatives from Ars Electronica and the Institute of Digital Sciences Austria (IDSA) will select the Students.

By participating in this competition, applicants automatically accept the terms and conditions of this call. Results will be published on the program partners' website from July 2023 onwards. All applicants will be notified by email by mid-July 2023.

Timetable

Application period opens: **June 8, 2023**

Application deadline: **July 6, 2023 – 11:59pm CEST**

Notification of selected applicants: **July 14, 2023**



Apply here!

<https://ars.electronica.art/university>

Submission Details

The following details are requested for the application process (all information must be in English):

- **Personal details**, including your name, contact information, and any relevant affiliations.
- **Curriculum vitae** including educational background (max. 2 pages).
- **Motivation letter** highlighting your background relevant to the FOUNDING LAB, and the reasons for your interest in becoming a Student at the FOUNDING LAB (max. 1 page).
- **Video** (max. 2 minutes) answering the following question:
 - What makes you the ideal student for this program and how do you resonate with the focus of the FOUNDING LAB?
- **Optional:** Additional materials reflecting your passion and expertise, such as artwork, projects, prototypes, research, systems, activities, strategies, etc. Please ensure that any links provided are accessible and provide passwords whenever necessary.

No alternative forms of submission and no late applications will be accepted.

Please note that parts of your application, including your video, may be made public for communication and promotion purposes (see below).

Contact, Privacy, Support

If you have any questions or require any support, feel free to reach out to our team:

foundinglab@ars.electronica.art

Ars Electronica Linz GmbH & Co KG respects each person's right to privacy. We do not sell or distribute personal information for commercial purposes. Your application will be treated confidentially. Only selected members of Ars Electronica Linz GmbH & Co KG and the Institute of Digital Sciences Austria (IDSA) have access to your application. Processing of the applicant's personal data takes place in accordance with the provisions of the General Data Protection Regulation (EU 2016/679). The program is organized by Ars Electronica and Institute of Digital Sciences Austria (IDSA).

Publication and Public Representation

The organizers and sponsors of IDSA and the Ars Electronica intend to make the results of the FOUNDING LAB accessible to the wider public. To achieve this, they intend to conduct a public relations campaign in print media outlets, radio and TV stations, and on the internet, as well as in various publications and by public presentations of the results of the said FOUNDING LAB. The entrants hereby consent to make their activities available for these purposes as a condition of participation. (There will be no commercial exploitation of the ideas and works that are created during the course of this FOUNDING LAB.)

Ars Electronica Archive

Ars Electronica Archive Ars Electronica maintains an archive for the purpose of documenting digital media art and intends to make the contents of this archive accessible by interested members of the public both onsite and on the internet. As a condition of participation, entrants hereby consent to the inclusion of all documentation material to be produced during the FOUNDING LAB as well as to its public display both online and in the context of exhibits staged by Ars Electronica.

Public Relations and Documentation

Likewise as a condition of participation, entrants hereby consent to the material which is being created during the workshops, as a whole or in part, being used, stored to a data storage medium, and/or made public on the internet or via some other digital medium by Ars Electronica or by a third party authorized by Ars Electronica for purposes of public relations, advertising & promotion, documentation, archiving or scientific research. The exercise of this right is restricted to activities for the purpose of disseminating information about and/or promoting the FOUNDING LAB, IDSA and Ars Electronica. Prior consent is required for any activities that go beyond this scope and/or constitute commercial usage. In using such works, Ars Electronica will accord all due consideration to the entrants' legitimate interests but assumes no statutory duty in this connection.

Visa Requirements

Citizens of EU member states, European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland do not need a visa for entering the Republic of Austria.

Nationals of other countries may require a visa in order to enter the Schengen Area or the Austrian territory.

Please check the information on whether you require a visa or not on the [website of the Federal Ministry of the Interior](#).

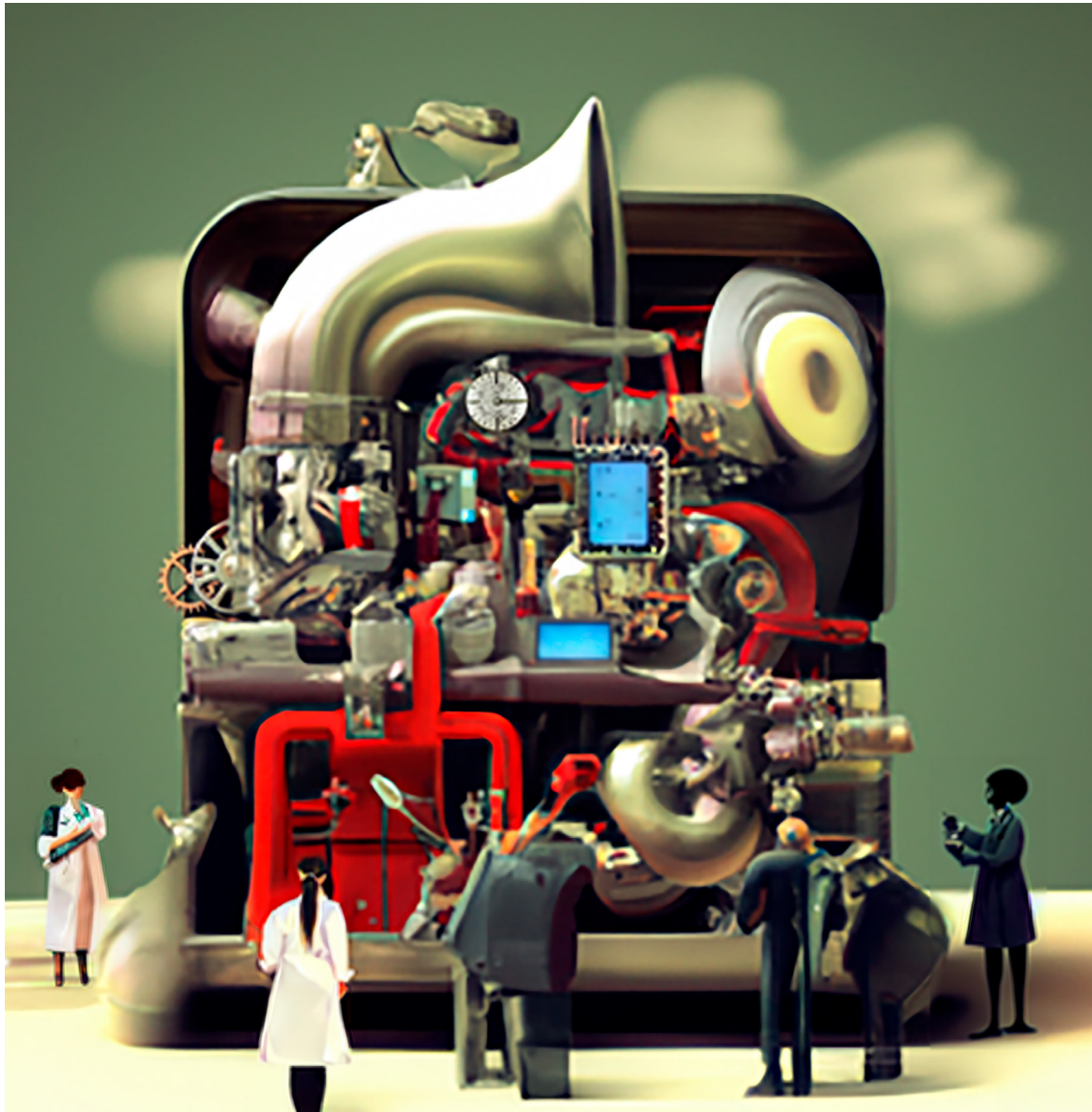
Nationals of those states for which the visa requirement has been lifted by means of an EU regulation are entitled to visa-free entry to Austria for a maximum of 90 days per 180 days in case of no gainful employment.

For more information and to initiate your visa application, please contact the Austrian representation, which is competent for your place of residence.

Find more information in the following links:

<https://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/travel-stay/entrance-and-residence-in-austria/>

<https://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/embassies-consulates/search-for-austrian-representations/>



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Be part of founding a pioneering university for digital transformation.

The Organizer reserves the right in its sole discretion, to terminate, modify or suspend the Program for any reason, at any time.