

AI, Disinformation, and International Security

Winter School

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| <u>PROGRAMME OVERVIEW</u> | <u>1</u> |
| <u>LOCATION AND DURATION</u> | <u>2</u> |
| <u>NOMINATIONS AND APPLICATIONS.....</u> | <u>2</u> |
| <u>TARGET AUDIENCE.....</u> | <u>2</u> |
| <u>PROGRAMME STRUCTURE.....</u> | <u>2</u> |
| <u>KEY TOPICS</u> | <u>3</u> |
| <u>LEARNING OUTCOMES</u> | <u>3</u> |
| <u>PROJECT TARGETS & MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS FOR ERASMUS FUNDING.....</u> | <u>3</u> |
| <u>FURTHER DETAIL.....</u> | <u>4</u> |
| <u>CONCLUSION</u> | <u>4</u> |

Programme Overview

The school is a dedicated educational initiative aiming to address critical contemporary concerns, specifically focusing on AI and its role in information warfare. The programme endeavours to elucidate how AI technologies can be manipulated for, and defended against, disinformation and propaganda. The school offers a blend of theoretical discourse and hands-on workshops to equip participants with an in-depth understanding of the prevalent threats and opportunities.

Location and Duration

- **Venue:** Romanian-American University, Bucharest, Romania
- **Period:** 5th – 9th of February 2024
- **Duration:** 5 days (Monday – Friday)
- **Online activity:** 15th of February 2024 (details in the Programme Structure section)

Nominations and applications

Students should be nominated **by their home university** in the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/e/Fik11cXras>

After nomination, the students need to submit the following documents:

- Transcript of records
- Learning Agreement
- ID / passport
- CV

Target Audience

Undergraduate and master's students with an interest in Artificial Intelligence, Disinformation, Propaganda, and International Security.

Programme Structure

- **Sunday, 4th of February:** Participants arrival and ice-breaking.
- **Saturday, 10th of February:** Participants departure
- **Daily Schedule:** Classes will be conducted from 9.00 to 17.00, with a one-hour break for lunch, from Monday to Friday.
- **Evening Activities:** A variety of recreational activities will be available from 17.00 onwards.
- **Teaching Methods:** Theoretical lectures and practical workshops
- **Online activity:** Participants will engage in practical workshops where they will apply AI tools to identify and analyze disinformation strategies. These workshops are designed to provide a hands-on experience,

allowing participants to use AI software to detect deepfakes, analyze social media trends, and understand the mechanics behind AI-driven propaganda.

Key Topics

1. **Disinformation and Propaganda:** Comprehensive exploration of theory and practice
2. **Artificial Intelligence:** In-depth study of AI technologies including deep learning and generative AI (Large Language Models included)
3. **Adversarial Machine Learning:** Examination of contentious and antagonistic aspects of machine learning.

Learning Outcomes

Participants will:

- Acquire comprehensive knowledge about the workings of AI, with a special focus on generative AI.
- Develop skills to identify and counteract disinformation attempts.
- Learn refined methodologies to assess information validity.
- Discern propaganda from factual information.
- Gain awareness about the national and international security implications stemming from AI.

Project Targets & mandatory requirements for Erasmus funding

- The Winter School must gather at least 2 universities as partners, besides RAU, from 2 other EU or Partner (Turkey, Serbia, etc.) countries - except Romania. All partners must have Erasmus agreements in place (our RAU ERASMUS OFFICE can sign any bilateral Erasmus agreement in approx. 2 days).
- The Winter School must gather at least 15 students from EU countries (except Romanians).
- The length of the Winter School must be 1 to 4 weeks (we designed it for 1 week).
- Student participants receive 70 EUR/day for their time in Romania – from their university’s ERASMUS OFFICE budget. The ERASMUS OFFICE of their institution has the legal bases to fund them for 2 supplementary days besides the actual number of days of the summer school, if they can afford and wish to further help the students. This amount is considered to cover daily expenses (food, lodging) and transport to/from Romania (so the extra 2 days might help the students).
- If any of the (at least) 2 Winter School partner universities wish to also send lecturers for school activities, they should be financed by the partner university ERASMUS OFFICE.

- If we gather lecturers for the winter school, representatives of the business environment/NGOs (but NOT professors from universities), we can also reimburse them from the Erasmus Program funds, under the following regulations: 140 EUR/day (with a minimum of 2-day participation) + transport, with the transport covered within the below “bands”:

| Travel distances | In case of standard travel | In case of green travel |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Between 10 and 99 KM: | 23 EUR per participant | |
| Between 100 and 499 KM: | 180 EUR per participant | 210 EUR per participant |
| Between 500 and 1999 KM: | 275 EUR per participant | 320 EUR per participant |
| Between 2000 and 2999 KM: | 360 EUR per participant | 410 EUR per participant |
| Between 3000 and 3999 KM: | 530 EUR per participant | 610 EUR per participant |
| Between 4000 and 7999 KM: | 820 EUR per participant | |
| 8000 KM or more: | 1500 EUR per participant | |

Further Detail

For additional information regarding application procedures, accommodation options, fees, and other logistical details, please contact andrei.luchici@rau.ro.

Conclusion

The BIP Programme is a pivotal learning opportunity for students aiming to delve into the intricate interplay between AI, disinformation, propaganda, and international security. By participating in this Winter School, students will gain valuable insights and skills, crucial for navigating and influencing the rapidly evolving landscape of information warfare and security in the AI-driven era.