How long does it take to graduate?

Most AI and robotics undergraduate degrees will take around three years to finish in the UK, with many offering opportunities to gain a year of work experience or study abroad. Postgraduate degrees are usually between one and two years.

Some universities also offer an integrated master’s degree, which allows you to complete both the undergraduate and postgraduate components in four years of full time study.

What is the application process?

Most undergraduate degrees in artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics will require three A-levels, with many of the most popular demanding AAA. Usually one of these must be mathematics.

The typical requirements for International Baccalaureate is 32 points, with typical IELTS requirements being 6.5 overall, and no lower than 6.0 in any one component.

Where can I study AI and robotics?

You can choose from more than 200 courses related to AI and robotics from more than 50 universities in the UK. This includes two of the top ten universities for Computer Science and Information Systems – the University of Oxford (sixth) and the University of Cambridge (eighth).
What is the course structure?

Course content varies between courses and universities, but most AI and robotics degrees will provide you with an introduction to the key aspects of the field, from programming, web development and computer infrastructure to AI and machine learning, and space robotics.

Leading lecturers with extensive experience in the field will also help ensure you leave with the kinds of transferable skills that employers look for, such as communication, research and data analysis, as well as the ability to deliver projects to deadlines in an organised, self-motivated way.

What kind of equipment will I be using?

Many UK universities have their own state-of-the-art laboratories and robotic equipment, so you’ll be able to get your hands on the latest technology throughout your studies – from mobile and aerial robots to microcontroller systems, vision and motion tracking systems, and laser scanners.

Why is the UK a good choice for AI and robotics?

The UK is a global hub of new thought in artificial intelligence and robotics, so you’ll be learning at the cutting edge of new thinking and research. Automation has been identified as a key driver for productivity and GDP\(^3\) in the UK, and links between industry and universities will grow ever closer in delivering those goals. You’ll also have access to world-leading events and organisations, with the chance to mingle with some of the brightest minds in the business, who share your passion for automation.

Are there any scholarships for AI and robotics?

Yes, a wide range of scholarships are available in all manner of AI and robotics courses, from MSc scholarships in Artificial Intelligence at Bath University, to a combined MSc in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence from the University of Liverpool, and a PhD developing robotic solutions in confined spaces at the University of Nottingham.

You can also choose to apply for one of the more high profile opportunities such as Chevening Scholarships or Commonwealth Scholarships, which are both open to residents of any country.

What are my work options after I graduate?

With the global robotics market set to reach $209bn by 2025\(^4\), a role in automation and AI presents a world of exciting opportunities, and lucrative career paths. Machine learning engineer graduates can expect a starting salary of around £35,000, rising to around £52,000 once you are established and potentially three times that with one of the leading global businesses like Google.

Other common careers include software design, communications and networking, web development, IT consultancy and systems analysis.

International students who have completed an undergraduate or master’s degree can apply to stay and work in the UK for two years upon graduation, through the Graduate Route.

To find out more about studying AI and robotics in the UK and to find a course, visit Study UK.

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