Public AI Student Leaders Application

This is a leadership development program for students who wish to advance the values of public AI—public access, public accountability, and permanent public goods—within their campus communities. Students will participate in a curated cohort of public AI student leaders, grow their knowledge and skills around public AI, build with public AI tools and systems, and meet with technology, activist, and policy leaders from around the world.

Student leaders will:

- found and lead Public AI Student Chapters at their college, university, or institution of higher education;
- recruit members from their campus communities;
- run initiatives (events, workshops, lectures, etc.) that advance participation in and development of public AI;
- develop partnerships with other student organizations on campus; and
- collaborate with other chapter leads to create a replicable playbook and resources for other student leaders to start chapters on their campuses.

Participants in the leadership development cohort will receive a $300 honorarium to acknowledge their contributions.

This program is open to students of all backgrounds and areas of study who are 18 years of age or older. The program will be conducted in English, and participants are expected to be comfortable conversing, reading, and writing in English. Application answers must be submitted in English.

Participants should expect to commit an average of 5 hours per week over the 14 weeks of the program, from mid-Feb to mid-May 2027, for a total of 70–80 hours over the whole program. Participants accepted into the cohort will need to confirm their participation the first week of February. The cohort programming will begin mid-February.

For more information, see www.aspendigital.org/project/public-ai-student-chapters

Note on AI use: While we do not prohibit AI use, we encourage you to use your own words to express your ideas. Across many applications, uncritical AI use is easy to identify when hundreds of other answers end up looking the same as yours. Your application will be strongest if you write in your own voice.

About You

1. First name / given name * [short answer]

2. Preferred name [short answer]
   If you go by something different from your first name, let us know how to address you.

3. Last name / family name * [short answer]

4. Academic Institution * [short answer]
   Which college, university, or other institution of higher education will you be enrolled in as a student between Feb–May 2027?

5. What is the level of your current studies? * [single choice]
   - Undergraduate (Associates, Bachelors, etc)
   - Graduate (Masters, PhD, Professional, etc)
   - Other: _____

6. Years at current institution * [single choice]
   Please answer in terms of years you have been at your current institution, only.
   - Up to 1 year
   - 1–2 years
   - 2–3 years
   - 3–4 years
   - 4 or more years

7. Your institutional email address [short answer]
   Typically ends in .edu or a pattern like .ac.country or .edu.country.

8. Preferred email * [short answer]
   Where do you prefer to receive communications? This can be different from your institutional email.

9. Shall we reach you via WhatsApp? *
   If we need to reach you by phone, we may contact you via WhatsApp if available (especially if you live outside of the United States). A WhatsApp account is not required. If you prefer to be contacted via WhatsApp, please select "Yes."
   - Yes
   - No

10. Phone number * [short answer]
    Include the country code. E.g., +1 for US.

11. Were you born on or before January 1, 2009? *
    Program participants are required to be 18 years of age or older.
    - Yes
    - No

What Public AI Means to You

Many people are concerned about the current trajectory of AI. AI development is out of alignment with the public in terms of what gets built and how it is used. These technologies should broaden access to AI capabilities, support human agency, and create lasting public value.

This program offers rising leaders an opportunity to engage with some of the most pressing questions of our time in community with global experts, policymakers, and builders. Tell us about who you are and why you want to help grow the public AI movement.

12. What do the ideas of "public access," "public accountability," and "permanent public goods" for AI mean to you in your life? * [long answer] 200 word limit
    We would like to know what about public AI resonates with your personal experience. Read more about public AI: Public AI: Infrastructure for the Common Good.

13. Why do you want to lead a Public AI Student Chapter? * [long answer] 200 word limit
    We want to understand what your motivations are for taking up this opportunity and identify any goals you have so that we can align the responsibilities with your personal and professional goals, if possible.

14. Share a project or experience (academic, personal, community, or professional) that demonstrates your interest and your ability to build community or bring ideas to life.* [long answer] 200 word limit
    Examples could include building a collaborative project, leading a student club, organizing an event, etc. They don't have to be about AI—we welcome relevant experience from any discipline that shows your ability to plan and deliver something.

Public AI Chapter Details

As part of this leadership development program, you will be expected to found and lead a Public AI Student Chapter at your institution. Chapters will serve as a hub for student engagement on public AI and will also create a replicable playbook and resources for other student leaders to start chapters on their campuses.

15. Faculty sponsor name [short answer]
    What professor or university staff member will help you host your chapter?

16. Faculty sponsor email [short answer]

17. Names of other officers (at least 1 other required) * [long answer] 100 word limit
    While only one person will be selected from each institution to participate in the leadership development cohort, running a Public AI Student Chapter will require more than one person. Who else will be helping you host your chapter and what role will they play?

18. How do you plan to recruit members to your Public AI Student Chapter? * [long answer] 150 word limit

19. In addition to the points above, what other resources, partners, or campus opportunities do you hope to work with for your chapter? * [long answer] 150 word limit
    Share any creative ideas, local partnerships, cross-disciplinary connections, or unique campus (or other) resources you plan to work with.

Participation

In addition to leading your campus's Public AI Student Chapter, you will be expected to participate in virtual meetings of the cohort and asynchronous discussion. There is one required kick-off meeting in February and one required closing meeting and presentation in May.

Participants should expect to commit approximately 5 hours per week over the 14 weeks of the program, from mid-Feb to mid-May 2027, for a total of 70–80 hours over the whole program. The program will be conducted in English, and participants are expected to be comfortable conversing, reading, and writing in English.

20. Please confirm you understand the expected time commitment for participating *
    - ○ I confirm

21. We want to support you in participating fully. Do you require any accessibility accommodations to participate in the virtual cohort programming? [short answer]
    If so, please describe (e.g., transcriptions of calls, reduced screen time). This has no impact on your application.

Final Page of Application

Thank you for the thought and care with which you have prepared your application. This is the final page of the submission. When you hit submit, your application will be complete. You will receive a copy of your application responses by email.

Applications are open through end-of-day, anywhere on Earth December 23, 2026.

22. Would you like to be added to Aspen Digital's Public Interest Technology email list for future updates and opportunities? (This has no impact on your application.)
    - ○ Yes

SUBMIT