KING'S INSTITUTE FOR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

KING'S College LONDON

Annual Report 2025

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The King's Institute for Artificial Intelligence is working to bring together and coordinate our artificial intelligence research and education across the university, to provide more opportunities for multidisciplinary teams to rise to the challenges of AI, and to give a greater coherence to the overall agenda at King's in a supportive AI community. To tell us about your work, or find out more about ours, email **ai-institute@kcl.ac.uk**.

Message from the Director

I feel almost emotional in writing these words, prompted by a reflection on the activities of the King's Institute for Artificial Intelligence during the past academic year. This message truly represents the final act of my two years as Director and, for this reason, I will be a bit introspective, focussing on the state of AI at King's College London and omitting to discuss the fascinating external context.

Yet there is a parallel between the situation inside and outside the university. Just as the outside world is waiting to see what the future with and of AI will look like – and, in the meantime, is trying to prepare for it – the past year has represented a transition to what I would call the King's Institute of Artificial Intelligence 2.0 and a lot of work has gone into preparing the ground for it.

During the last few months, King's has committed significant resources into securing world-leading talent in AI with two complementary initiatives that reflect our conviction that AI needs to be studied holistically and in a multidisciplinary manner. With the AI for Science academic positions and the AI+ Fellowships, we will build a cohort of scholars who share this perspective and demonstrate this both pedagogically in their teaching and academically by breaking disciplinary boundaries in their research. Being involved with both initiatives during the last year has shown the wide appeal that the university has – also through the Institute's stewardship – in the AI space.

Every reader of this message will have heard about AI skills and their importance. When Devon County Council invited us to develop an AI awareness training course for SME owners, we put our Continuing Professional Development vision to the test. What makes me proud the most is that our course was done the 'King's way' with contributions from different faculties and from people with differing levels of seniority. The initiative also revealed the incredible talent of King's PhD students, whose contributions were instrumental to helping the SME owners apply their learning to their businesses.

I consider this training provision as part of the evidence that King's is ready to play its societal role and use its experts to shape the public discussion around AI. The Institute has contributed to several high-profile external engagement activities, ensuring King's academic perspective informs critical conversations beyond the University. This includes providing substantial King's insight into government-commissioned work on the UK's AI competitive

advantages and participating in policy discussions on the impact of AI on the future of London and the nation in BusinessLDN's *Future London* 2025 conference and Westminster eForum's policy conference *Next Steps for AI Development in the UK*. I must mention the third edition of the King's Festival of Artificial Intelligence, which this year reached yet another level with 3,600 attendees across 5 days and more than 40 events. I felt that the discourse with the public was notably more mature and engaging this year and cannot wait to see what the future of our flagship event looks like!

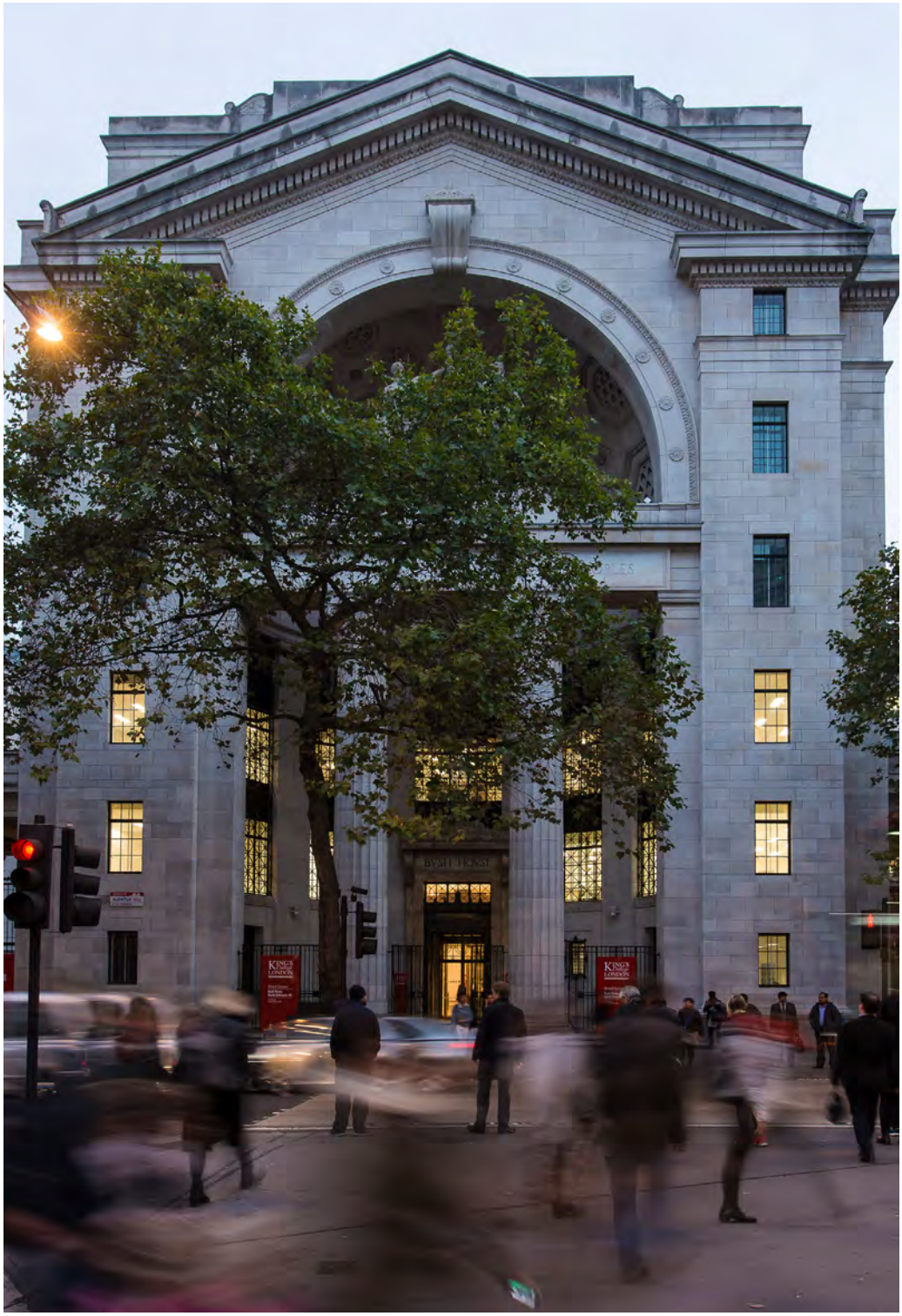
Research remains the Institute's cornerstone, and this year's efforts focused on continuing to foster interdisciplinary collaborations – both within King's and beyond. Highlights that come to mind include the grant writing workshop with the Centre for Sustainable Business, which has led to the drafting of several external and internal funding bids; the workshop with the Faculty of Social Science & Public Policy aimed at identifying research threads on AI that could galvanise and unite the Faculty; and the workshop on AI in biosciences which represented my last formal engagement as Institute Director and highlighted a number of promising follow-up activities. We also hosted the first series of Institute research seminars, featuring speakers from different faculties, as well as an external speaker delivering a series of lectures on online learning and its applications to economics. Beyond King's, the Institute co-hosted and participated in events on AI in finance, collaborating with the London School of Economics and providing speakers for the Bank of England and the FCA AI sprint. I'm confident these efforts will empower the AI+ Fellows to drive cross-disciplinary breakthroughs.

Let me conclude by saying that it is the people I have met during the journey that have shaped my way of thinking and helped

King's Institute for Artificial Intelligence team

me develop as an individual. Seldom do I currently have discussions around AI that solely focus on technical aspects. My perspective has broadened to encompass several dimensions. Colleagues across the college have left me not only with friendly messages of esteem upon the end of my term but with long-lasting memories and a new set of skills. And, within this group, I cannot not mention the fantastic team at the King's Institute for Artificial Intelligence. Rose, Catherine, Jess, and Karly, I feel fortunate to have shared part of my academic and life journey with you. Without you, none of this would have been as rewarding, fun, or impactful – thank you for making these two years unforgettable.

Professor Carmine Ventre
Interim Director until May 2025
King's Institute for Artificial Intelligence



Our priorities

The Institute's mission is threefold:

- **To contribute to the development** of a university agenda that reflects faculty interests and adds value to faculty communities.
- **To provide researchers and educators** an environment and additional opportunities to build multidisciplinary teams to rise to the challenges presented by AI now and in the future.
- **To create a pipeline of opportunities** to establish links to application areas and industry, and to engage with policy makers, other external organisations and the general public.

We achieve this by focusing our efforts and resources on the following four priorities:

1. Enable a connected and coordinated research community.
2. Provide new opportunities for engagement and external collaborations.
3. Raise King's AI profile by increasing internal and external visibility.
4. Support education and develop training.

This annual report expands on each of these priorities and presents highlights of the activity undertaken to achieve them.

About us

AI work spans every faculty at King's, covering core AI, applications and societal implications. The Institute networks these researchers and educators, and brings them together with policy makers, industry and the public to advance research and AI's application in society.

A Steering Group with representatives from each faculty ensures the Institute reflects King's diverse AI community.

The Institute's Affiliate Scheme includes 176 academics, researchers, and postgraduate research students as of July 2025.

Affiliates help shape the Institute's agenda while gaining opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration and enhanced visibility.

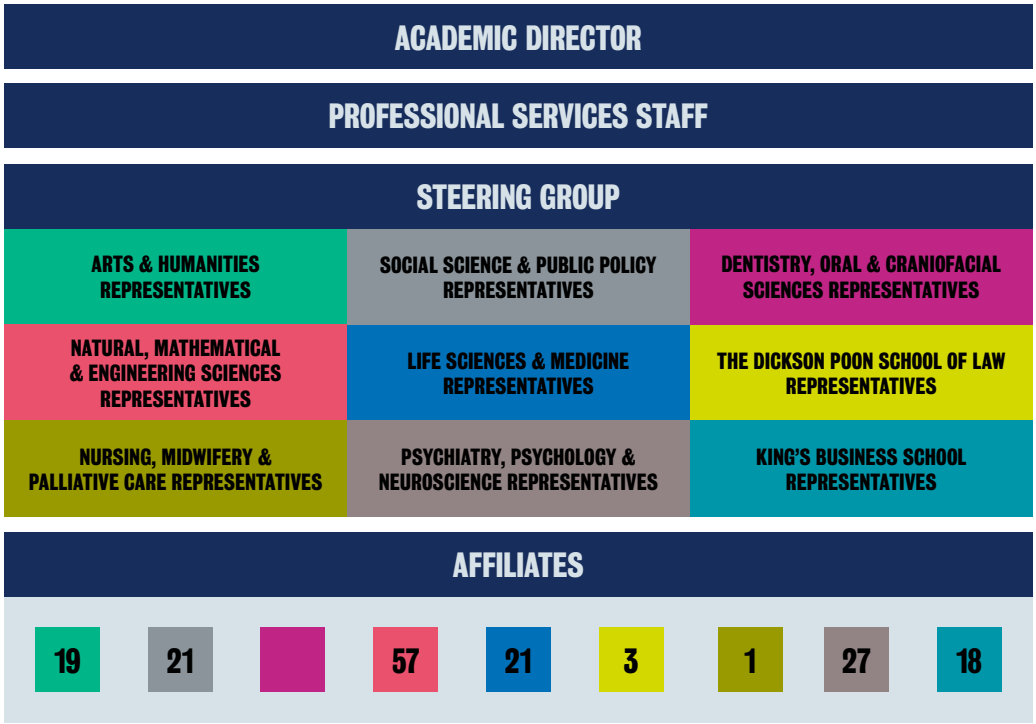
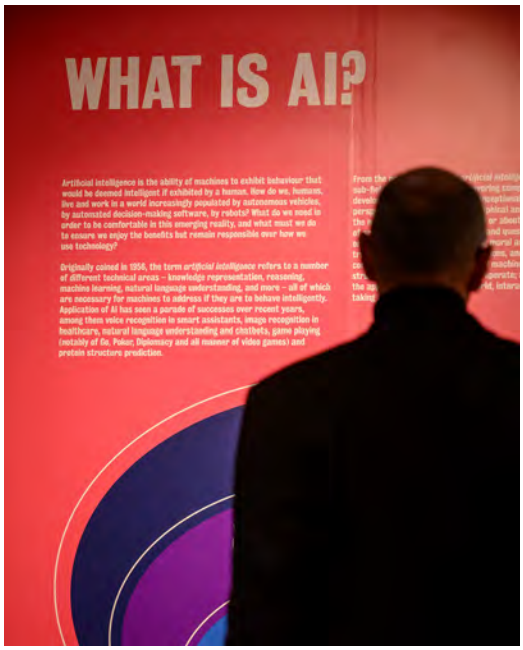


Figure 1. Diagrammatic representation of the Institute's structure (2024–25)



WORKING WITH AI AT KING'S?

- Apply to join our **Affliate Scheme.**
- Join our **internal mailing list.**
- For more details about our Affiliate Scheme, **see page 8.**
- For the 2024–25 Steering Group members, **see the inner back page.**

AI for Science Master's launch at King's with Minister for AI and Digital Government

A connected and coordinated research community

The Institute creates networks, channels and events to bring together AI communities at King's with a particular focus on establishing and nurturing new research connections and generating new internal collaborations and opportunities for interdisciplinary working. The aim is to provide a platform to study AI holistically and bring together the experts in core AI with the experts in applications areas and the legal, societal, ethical and philosophical implications of technological developments in AI.

King's Institute for Artificial Intelligence Affiliate Scheme

The scheme offers academic, research, technical and professional services staff as well as postgraduate research students from across King's an opportunity to align their research and interests with the mission of the Institute. It allows the Institute to foster collaboration and innovation in AI across the university.

THE AFFILIATE SCHEME IN NUMBERS, JULY 2025	
Total number of affiliates	**176**
Faculties represented (out of 9)	**9**
Academic or research staff	**134**
PhD students	**34**
Technical and professional services staff	**8**

'Being an affiliate of the Institute brings good opportunities for networking with colleagues across King's and beyond.'

78 % agree or strongly agree

At a glance

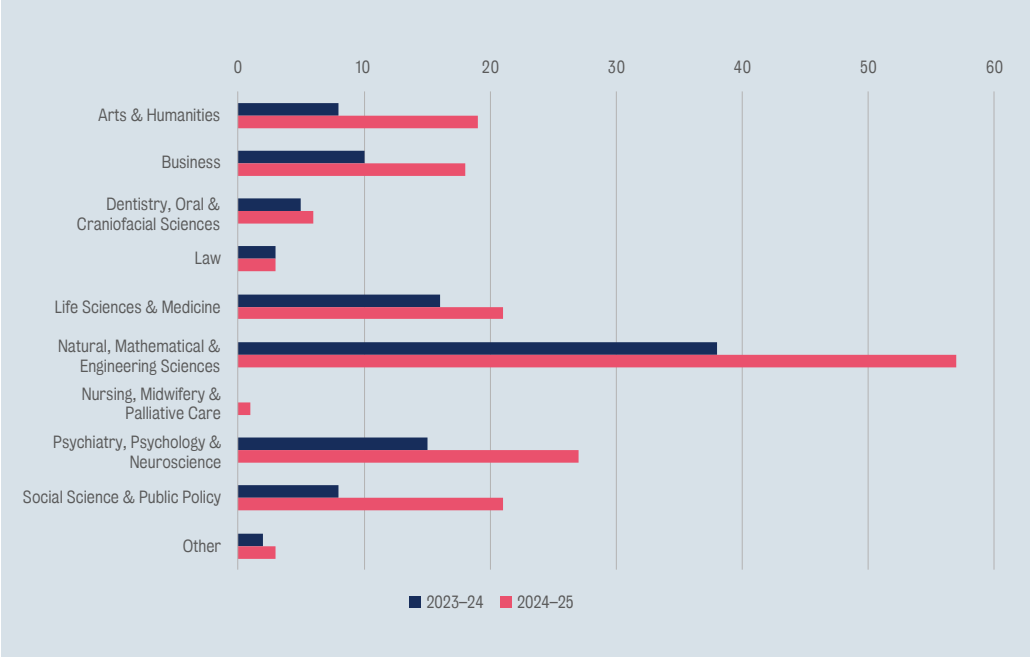


Figure 2. Affiliate numbers across all faculties, with every faculty represented in 2024–25 and overall membership growth

Figure 3. A selection of the most popular self-reported affiliate research areas

Affiliate activities

Affiliates drive AI forward at King's through activities including research collaborations, grant applications, events, and publications. This year's reported activities highlight the vibrancy of our community.

56% of affiliates reported applying for grants during the last academic year.	**54% of affiliates reported** new opportunities arising from their Institute engagement.
90% of affiliates reported joining one or more of the events run by the Institute during the last academic year.	**71% of affiliates reported** publishing an article, book, conference proceeding or other publication during their term as an affiliate.

This year, Institute affiliation generated a range of new collaborations and opportunities for our affiliates.

Supported the Bletchley Park Trust in their research for an exhibition on Alan Turing.	**Collaborated with affiliates from other faculties** to successfully apply for King's Together seed funding.
Attended AI UK, the UK's national showcase of Data Science and AI, delivered by The Alan Turing Institute.	**Served on the editorial advisory board** of the *Artificial Intelligence in Education* academic journal.
Spoke at a Financial Times event, *Confronting Bias and Building an Equitable AI Future.*	**Invited to join advisory board for an SME** after the company completed an Institute-delivered AI short course.

This year the Institute ran a series of events convening our affiliates community together with colleagues from across King's to support their development, offer opportunities to engage with external experts, and encourage networking and collaboration (see Figure 4).

In 2024–25, we ran grant writing workshops with King's Business School, and the Faculties of Dentistry, Oral & Craniofacial Sciences, and Social Science & Public Policy. If you'd like help running an activity like this, get in touch via **ai-institute@kcl.ac.uk**.

'My research has benefited from my affiliation with the Institute.'

65 % agree or strongly agree

'The Institute's commitment to fostering genuine dialogue has created new networks.'
Dr Christoffer Guldberg, Faculty of Social Science & Public Policy

● Apply to join our **Affiliate Scheme.**

● View our **Affiliates' profiles.**

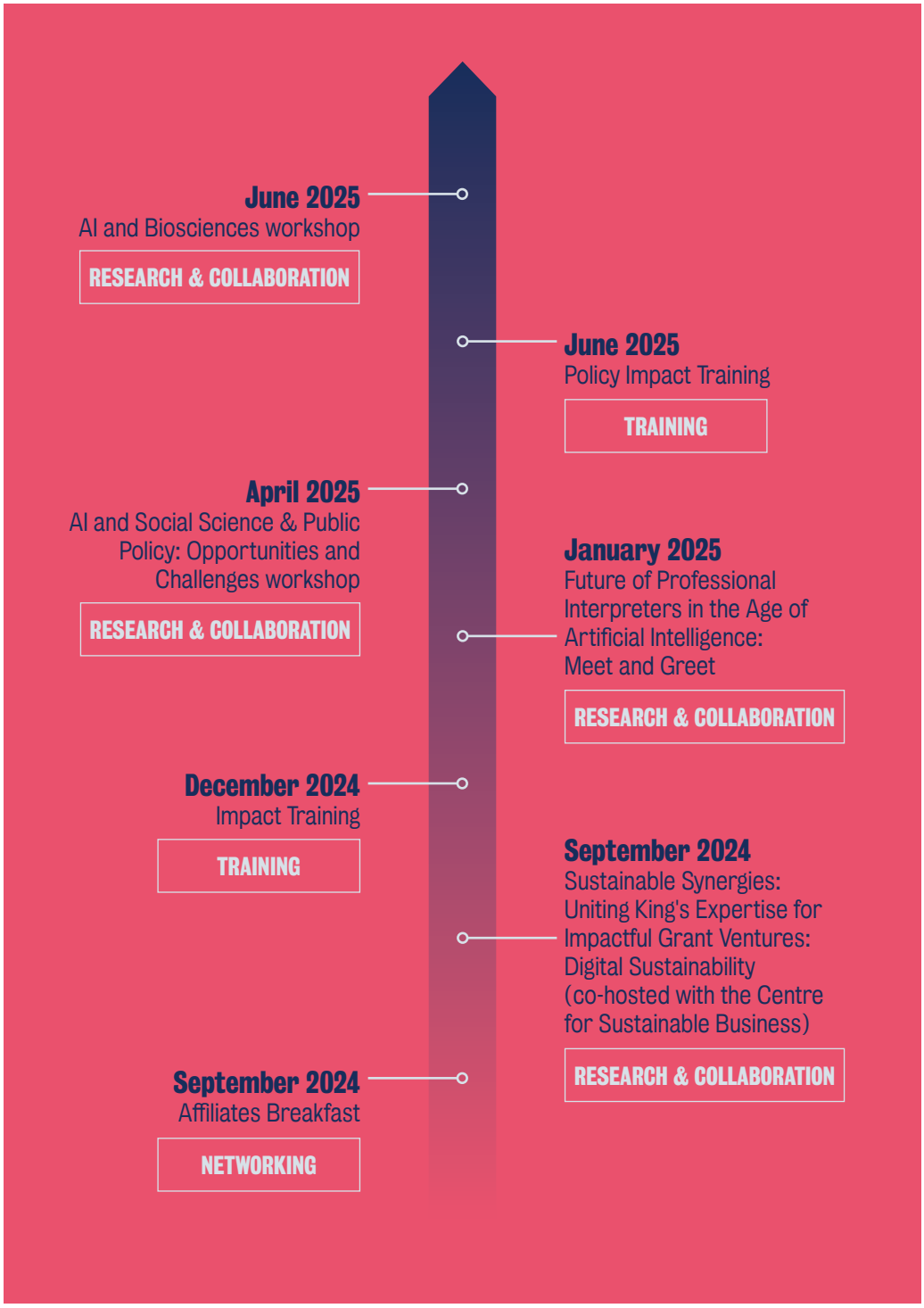


Figure 4. Timeline of events convening affiliates community

EXPERT VOICE ON INCLUSIVE AI

Dr Nessa Keddo

Faculty of Arts & Humanities

'I spoke at the 'Confronting Bias and Building an Equitable AI Future' event at the Financial Times in October 2024. The panel brought together pioneering experts in AI transformations to the problems with data centres, inclusive data collection, AI hallucinations and whether the UK government is geared for the societal challenges that AI presents.'

FROM SEMINAR TO MEDTECH ACCELERATOR

Dr Nicholas Cummins

Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience

'This year, through my work with the Institute, I delivered a seminar that not only led to my acceptance into King's MedTech Accelerator but also opened up conversations with industry organisations that attended, creating valuable opportunities for collaboration. Moving forward, I'm looking forward to a closer collaboration with the Institute to strengthen my research proposal and direction.'

'I particularly benefited from the diverse perspectives from academics and industry professionals as well as the ability to network with PhD students from other leading UK institutes.' *Sriram Bharadwaj Rangarajan, PhD student, Faculty of Natural, Mathematical & Engineering Sciences on 2024–25 Institute activities*

HUMANS IN THE LOOP

Dr Johanna Walker
Faculty of Natural, Mathematical & Engineering Sciences

'The Institute co-funded a live work-in-progress performance of 'Humans in the Loop', a musical showcasing the voices of the visible and invisible creators and users of generative AI, presented as part of the King's Festival of Artificial Intelligence. This has been a fantastic opportunity for engagement with other researchers both at King's and beyond, much of which I hope is only at the beginning of a longer journey.

Through invitations to chair events during the Festival and London Data Week, I've had the opportunity to learn more about the work of King's colleagues including Professor Luca Viganò, Dr Mike Cook, and Dr Eva McAvoy. The Institute has also connected me with external partners including the Equiano Institute. As a result of these panel engagements, I was invited to present 'Humans in the Loop' at London Data Week, which led to securing additional NMES funding for a performance at RSA House in July 2025.'

'This has been a fantastic opportunity for engagement with other researchers both at King's and beyond...' *Dr Johanna Walker, Faculty of Natural, Mathematical & Engineering Sciences*

DIGITAL DECOLONISATION

Dr Christoffer Guldberg
Faculty of Social Science & Public Policy

'My affiliation with the Institute has contributed to several exciting new opportunities for me. Together with Mireille Kouyo (a joint PhD student at King's and the University of Pretoria), I organised the 'Digital Decolonisation: Visibilities and Invisibilities in the Age of Algorithms' event series during the King's Festival of Artificial Intelligence. As a result, I received invitations for two academic publications, international speaking engagements, as well as a trustee position. I was furthermore invited to do a series of videos with Sage Publications on my work with AI and disinformation.

The Institute's commitment to fostering genuine dialogue has created new networks. Three speakers from the Digital Decolonisation event series are now contributing to my podcast, Decolonising AI – a mostly human podcast, as well as a special issue on AI, citizenship and humour, expected in 2026 that I am editing. The support from both Institute staff and fellow affiliates has been absolutely amazing.'

Institute research seminar series

The Institute launched its public research seminar series in autumn 2024. The aim of the series is to showcase King's multidisciplinary AI expertise, foster a connected and coordinated research community, and establishing new research connections and opportunities.

The 2024–25 series welcomed 300 attendees across four events, and featured speakers from five of King's faculties.

Brain-Inspired AI: From Algorithms to Hardware Platforms

Speaker: Professor Bipin Rajendran, Faculty of Natural, Mathematical & Engineering Sciences

AI and Waste: Tackling Social and Environmental Challenges
(co-hosted with King's Climate & Sustainability)

Dr Samuel, Professor Hogstrand, Dr Panagiotidou

Speaker: Professor Christer Hogstrand, Faculty of Life Sciences & Medicine
Speaker: Dr Gabrielle Samuel, Faculty of Social Science & Public Policy
Chair: Dr Georgia Panagiotidou, Faculty of Natural, Mathematical & Engineering Sciences

Creative Precarity in the Time of Generative AI

Speaker: Professor Hye-Kyung Lee, Faculty of Arts & Humanities

Towards the Clinical Adoption of Voice and Speech as Digital Biomarkers of Mental Health

Speaker: Dr Nicholas Cummins, Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience

Seed-funded community events

The Institute provided over £7100 in seed funding for five community events in 2024–25 that brought together diverse AI research communities from King's and beyond.

The Institute supported *Women in RAi: Generative AI and the Representation of Women*. With 56 attendees, there were crucial discussions about AI's impact on marginalised communities as well as new research connections formed between academia and industry, including Barclays, Amazon and The Alan Turing Institute.

Next Level 2024 brought together game developers and AI researchers to probe the impact of AI and science on the games industry in an interdisciplinary one-day conference. With 114 attendees including industry experts from Jagex, researchers, and YouTube personalities, this event exemplified our goal of supporting emerging multidisciplinary AI fields that require diverse perspectives, from game development and scientific discovery to urban planning through interactive storytelling.

In April 2025, *The Application of AI Within Our Justice System* conference saw legal professionals, police, forensic experts, technologists, academics and policy makers come to King's to discuss AI's transformative impact within the justice system. This conference, hosted by King's Forensics in association with the British Academy of Forensic Sciences and Inside Justice, was supported by the Institute and showcases our commitment to connecting technical AI expertise with critical societal applications and ethical considerations. Inviting legal professionals, police, forensic experts, technologists, academics and policy makers to King's.

The Institute also supported two events that focused on bringing academics from both King's and other universities together ahead of large international AI conferences. *PreTrain 2025*, hosted by the King's NLP Group, welcomed researchers from across the Turing University Network to present their papers that were accepted to the Association for Computational Linguistics, International Conference on Machine Learning, and the International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR) 2025.

Cockney CHAI 2025 convened London-based Human-Computer Interactions researchers at King's where they presented on human-centred AI ahead of the ACM (Association for Computing Machinery) CHI conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems. Both *PreTrain 2025* and *Cockney CHAI 2025* exemplify our support for gathering researchers around specific AI research areas, providing opportunities to share cutting-edge work, receive feedback, and foster new discussions while strengthening community connections before major international conferences.

'Cockney CHAI was instrumental in helping us continue to build the London-based community of people working at the vital intersection of AI and human-centred computing.'
Dr Timothy Neate, Faculty of Natural, Mathematical & Engineering Sciences

The Turing University Network (TUN)

The Alan Turing Institute serves as the UK's National Institute for data science and artificial intelligence. The Turing University Network (TUN) was established in 2023 with the aim to create better connections across the data science and AI landscape and promote collaboration among universities in the UK. King's joined the network in April 2023.

The TUN is a key component of the Turing's strategy and supports the Turing to achieve its three goals:

1. To advance world-class research and apply it to national and global challenges.
2. To build skills for the future.
3. To drive an informed public conversation.

Advancing world class research

Three King's academics were amongst 51 new Turing Fellows appointed in 2023–24: Professor Elizabeth Black, Dr Helen Yannakoudakis, and Dr Yali Du. Their activities this year have included:

'I was able to meet a wide variety of people at AI UK, the Turing's showcase of data science and AI. There were lots of opportunities to see something interesting and important.' *Bogdan Octavian Grecu, PhD Student, Faculty of Natural, Mathematical & Engineering Sciences*

Find out more about the Turing's strategy.

Elizabeth Black

- Engaging through the Skills Initiative, with a focus on PhD student development and through the Turing Connections Initiative.
- Part of the organising committee for PhD Connect 2024, the Turing's annual two-day conference for PhD students in data science and AI.
- A member of the judging panel for the poster competition during PhD Connect.

Yali Du

- Took part in a project funded by the Turing entitled 'Development of an AI Engineer (Splunk Centre of Excellence)'.
- Co-organiser of the UK Multi-Agent Systems symposium.

Building skills for the future

Andrei-Bogdan Balcau, Chiara Di Bonaventura, and Elfia Bezou-Vrakatseli, PhD students from the Centre for Doctoral Training in Safe and Trusted AI, were awarded places on the Alan Turing Institute Enrichment Scheme for 2024–25. The scheme is designed for PhD students looking to enhance, refresh, and broaden their research with the Turing community.

Driving an informed public conversation

The Institute supported two King's academics and three PhD students to attend AI UK in March 2025, the Turing's annual showcase of data science and AI,

'The Enrichment Scheme has been very beneficial, advancing my research technically and also deepening its relevance, ensuring it remains grounded in interdisciplinary collaboration and responsive to real-world challenges around AI transparency and value alignment.' *Elfia Bezou-Vrakatseli, PhD student, Centre for Doctoral Training in Safe and Trusted AI*

enabling them to engage with colleagues from across academia, government, and industry.

In March 2025 King's also hosted the UK Multi-Agent Systems Symposium on behalf of the Turing. The event brought together 170 leading researchers and industry experts in artificial intelligence and explored applications in autonomous driving, robotics, game theory, social networks and more. The event featured speakers from a range of organisations, including the Max Planck Institute, University College London, and Google DeepMind.

Connections with network members

This year, the Institute has established strong links with LSE's Data Science Institute (DSI), including facilitating two joint events: 'AI and Finance: Collaborative Frontiers' in April 2025 and 'Building the Data Infrastructure to Help Us Achieve Net Zero' during the King's Festival of Artificial Intelligence.

'Meeting people from different universities and learning about their projects was incredibly inspiring, and the wide range of topics offered by the Turing truly underscored the collaborative spirit of the event.' *Yali Du, Faculty of Natural, Mathematical & Engineering Sciences, on attending AI UK*

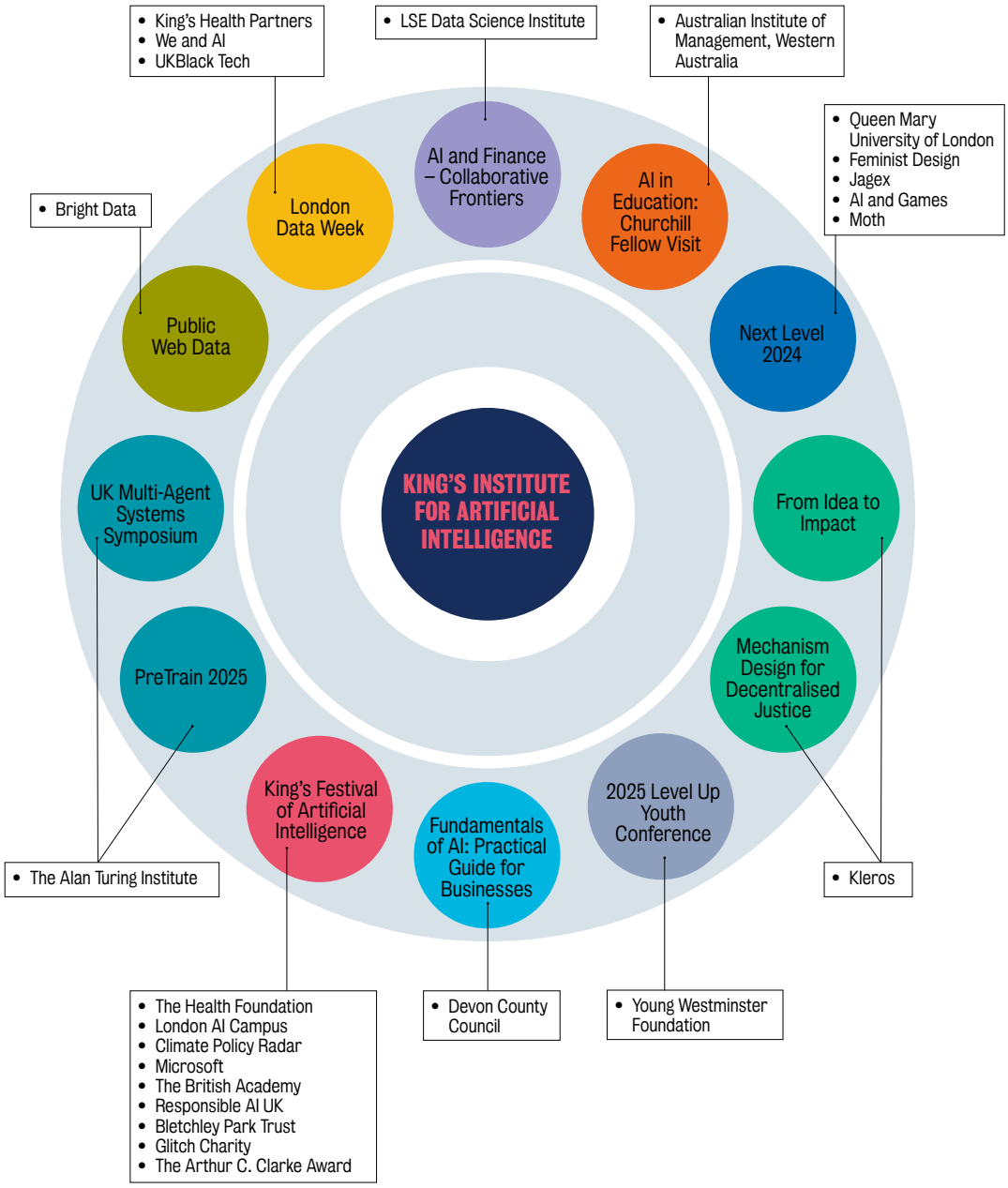


Figure 5. Examples of Institute events and activities throughout 2024–25, showing external organisations involved in each

Engagement and external collaborations

The Institute develops platforms, initiatives and collaborations that enable those working in AI at King's to pursue new knowledge exchange and enterprise activities, to raise the profile of their work outside of academia, and to generate greater opportunities for reach and impact through public engagement activities and activities involving industry. The Institute will provide all-King's representation for external audiences and, where appropriate, partnerships.

The King's Festival of Artificial Intelligence 2025

The third annual King's Festival of Artificial Intelligence took place from Tuesday 20 to Saturday 24 May 2025 and brought together researchers, industry leaders, policymakers and the public to examine AI's transformative potential across some key areas: healthcare, education, sustainability, policy, creativity, and more.

Festival highlights

This year's Festival saw the Institute welcome almost 3,600 attendees to four King's locations across London: Strand Campus, Guy's Campus, the London Institute for Healthcare Engineering, and Science Gallery London alongside a dedicated day of online events. All events were free and open to the public, and the festival culminated in a dedicated Family Day for younger audiences.

Almost 150 students, researchers and academics from King's nine faculties participated in the festival, alongside external guest speakers from a range of organisations including:

- The British Academy
- Microsoft
- Amazon Web Services
- LSE Data Science Institute
- The Bletchley Park Trust.

'The Family Day in particular reminded me why our public engagement matters and filled me with optimism about our collective future.'
Professor Carmine Ventre, Director of the Institute

Below: Family Day

POLICY THEME

HOW CAN WE MAKE AI WORK FOR ALL?

The festival opened with a panel at Science Gallery London, featuring panellists Hetan Shah (British Academy), Zephaniah Chukwudum (Microsoft), Robin Carpenter (Newton's Tree), and Dr Nessa Keddo, Professor Elisabeth Kelan and chair Professor Carmine Ventre (King's College London) who explored the potential of AI to benefit our society and how policymakers should respond to make AI work for all.

HEALTHCARE THEME

AI & HEALTHCARE: YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

The healthcare strand of the Festival culminated in a panel discussion at Guy's Hospital where attendees had the opportunity to put their questions on this topic to a panel of experts. The panel addressed key realities of AI and healthcare, including AI's potential to amplify rather than replace human expertise, the importance of personalised care, and the gap between AI hype and current clinical implementation.

SUSTAINABILITY THEME

AI & SUSTAINABILITY IN BUSINESS: BALANCING RISK AND OPPORTUNITY

This panel event, organised by the King's Centre for Sustainable Business, tackled the environmental implications of AI and addressed the critical balance between AI innovation and environmental responsibility.

EDUCATION THEME

AI IN EDUCATION SHOWCASE

The Friday of the festival featured a range of events dedicated to AI and Education, including a showcase of work in this space from across King's Faculties and central teams, demonstrating opportunities for personalised learning experiences, a Gen-AI powered assistant for King's students, and more.

CREATIVITY THEME

DIGITAL FUTURES OF LITERATURE

The King's Digital Futures Institute held a panel during the festival on the digital futures of literature, as part of their Living Well with Technology Series. The multidisciplinary panel tackled the promises and perils of generative AI in the literary world, and the importance of centring creatives in the discussion.

FAMILY DAY

FAMILY DAY

The festival's family day offered hands-on activities for children aged seven and over, including game design workshops, Turing tests, and robots. The activities transformed complex technological concepts into accessible, engaging experiences for young audiences and their families.

The King's Festival of Artificial Intelligence was sponsored by G-Research.

Evaluating the festival

Now in its third year, the 2025 King's Festival of Artificial Intelligence supported the Institute in all four priority areas:

Raise King's AI profile by increasing internal and external visibility

Only 31 per cent of festival attendees had heard of the Institute before attending this year's festival, demonstrating the festival's success in increasing the reach and visibility of the Institute.

Festival attendees joined the from across the UK, alongside visitors from North and South America, Australia, Asia, Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

Enable a connected and coordinated research community

The festival programme featured 201 presenters.

- 125 King's staff and students presented 144 times.
- Speakers represented all nine faculties at King's as well as central services.
- There were 57 external speakers.

23 per cent of presenters were early career, demonstrating the festival's support for the talent pipeline.

125
King's staff & students

Speakers from all nine faculties & central services

57
external speakers

23%
early career presenters

Provide new opportunities for engagement and external collaboration

Through the festival programme the Institute collaborated with a wide range of organisations, including:

Attendees were asked their motivations for attending:

69%
said they had a professional or academic interest in the topic

43%
wanted to develop their skills or knowledge about AI

35%
had a personal interest in the topic

'The festival provides real value and opportunity for everyone to meet and share ideas on AI in a range of topics.' *King's presenter*

96%
of presenters were very satisfied that they had been able to achieve their goals for taking part in the festival

- The Rochester Institute of Technology
- The Health Foundation UK
- The Arthur C. Clarke Award
- The Bletchley Park Trust
- Climate Policy Radar.

Education and training

Working with Dr Martin Compton, College Lead for AI and Innovation in Education, the Festival included a full day of events focused on AI and education. This included panel events, a keynote lecture, and a range of practical workshops.

External collaborations

Throughout the 2024–25 academic year the Institute has collaborated with a range of organisations from across academia, industry, local government, and the third sector. A selection of these are featured in figure 5 on page 20.

The Institute hosted international visitors including Drew Mayhills from the Australian Institute of Management and Cristina Cela Gutiérrez from Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. They engaged with King's academics on AI applications in education and interpreting respectively.

The Institute leveraged external collaborations in events, including the King's Festival of Artificial Intelligence (see page 25) and London Data Week (see page 23). This opened up critical conversations beyond solely academia, demonstrating the Institute's commitment to connecting technical expertise with broader societal applications.

Reaching new audiences

External collaborations enabled the Institute to reach new audiences throughout 2024–25. They helped bring new networks to King's events and also provided platforms for King's academics to share research with broader audiences through speaking opportunities and interviews.

'I saw [the festival] as an opportunity to share our research and to learn more from a wide range of speakers/ sessions.' *External presenter*

There were **343 attendees** to the Institute's London Data Week events.

79% of attendees had no affiliation to King's.

There were **3,569 attendees** at the King's Festival of Artificial Intelligence 2025.

59% of attendees had no affiliation to King's.

78% of attendees who provided event feedback in 2024–25 had not been to an event hosted by the Institute before.

Contributing to the conversation

Bright Data

In March 2025 the Institute hosted a public lecture on *Public Web Data: AI, research and how we can use it for social good*. This was delivered by Dana Mazia, the General Manager of The Bright Initiative, a global programme that leverages public web data to drive positive change. Dana was joined by a speaker from the Molly Rose Foundation, a charitable foundation established to prevent suicide amongst young people.

The two speakers presented their joint research project which used public web data to establish that young people are regularly recommended large volumes of harmful content. Dana also emphasised the benefits to King's researchers of accessing and analysing public web data.

'The range of speakers' perspectives was good, and I was alerted to issues I had not previously been aware of. Thank you for making this event accessible to the public.' *King's Festival of Artificial Intelligence attendee*

Kleros

In April 2025 the Institute collaborated with Kleros, a decentralised arbitration service, for two events. *From Idea to Impact: Launching Your LegalTech Startup* immersed participants in the role of a legaltech entrepreneur whilst *Mechanism Design for Decentralised Justice: Law in the Age of Crowds and Code* brought together leading academics, legal innovators and blockchain developers to discuss the latest research and applications in decentralised dispute resolution. Attendees explored cutting-edge advancements in mechanism design, peer prediction, blockchain identity, and AI-driven justice.

'It's exciting to see a research community forming around these ideas, and to witness decentralised justice becoming a mainstream field of research and practice.' *Federico Ast, President, Kleros*

BusinessLDN

The Institute strengthened its relationship with BusinessLDN through two key initiatives.

In February 2025 Professor Carmine Ventre participated in *The Future of Work: How employers and universities can meet AI skills challenges*, a roundtable hosted by BusinessLDN and the University of London. This roundtable was part of a series exploring what the growing adoption of AI tools might mean for tomorrow's professional services workforce, and it is expected that they will contribute to policy papers on this subject.

In June 2025 Carmine joined a panel as part of BusinessLDN's annual *Future London* event. He joined colleagues from BusinessLDN, Microsoft, Deloitte and BT to discuss and debate key challenges and opportunities offered by AI in light of the UK Government's AI Opportunities Action Plan.

'Great event exploring AI for social good. It was also so helpful to hear from the Molly Rose Foundation.' *Public Web Data attendee*

Kleros event

Pint of Science

Pint of Science is an annual worldwide science festival which brings researchers to pubs, cafes and other community spaces so they can share their scientific discoveries with the public. This year the Institute sponsored an event delivered by King's researcher Dr Siân Culley to deliver a talk during the festival on *Is seeing believing when we use AI in Microscopy?* This sold-out talk saw 40 attendees hear about applications of AI in microscopy and see live demonstrations of object identification using AI tools.

AI 'Art' Challenge Award

The Institute sponsored the inaugural AI 'Art' Challenge Award, a collaboration between King's Academy and the London School of Economics where undergraduate students from both institutions were invited to create visual or audio-visual works using AI that reflected on responsible use, the human-technology relationship, or the future of art.

'It was a pleasure to learn about AI from some of the thought leaders in the space.' *From Idea to Impact: Launching Your LegalTech Startup attendee*

Detail from a Pint of Science talk presentation

London Data Week

The Institute had an organising role in London Data Week, a citywide festival which aims to centre London's residents in the conversation about data and its potential to tackle major issues such as public health emergencies. There were more than 50 events held from Monday 7 to Sunday 13 July 2025, and the Institute delivered three events and hosted two more at King's.

Women's Health Hackathon

This collaborative event was delivered in partnership by the Institute, UKBlackTech, NHS South-East London Integrated Care Service, and King's Health Partners. The hackathon addresses healthcare information barriers regarding menstruation and other health issues experienced by women, faced by underserved communities, including Black Caribbean and Black African women, those with English as a second language, digitally excluded groups and communities in areas of high deprivation.

The event welcomed clinicians, programmers, academics and public health experts to King's for this one-day event

'Inspiring and fun. Loved the enthusiasm of everyone and their genuine engagement with the challenge. It was great to hear from the speakers too, really broadened my horizon in terms of where I can apply my newly developed skills.' *Women's Health Hackathon attendee*

AI 'Art' Challenge event

which culminated in teams presenting a range of innovative digital solutions to the challenge posed.

Humans in the Loop

Hosted by RSA House, the Institute hosted a workshop performance of 'Humans in the Loop', a fast, funny, thought-provoking new musical created in collaboration by creatives concerned with the future of AI, advised by Dr Johanna Walker from the Department of Informatics at King's. The musical drew on multiple perspectives to show the whole of the AI journey, from tech bros to precarious data labellers, to users.

Algorave

Held at Science Gallery London, this event offered attendees the opportunity to join a hands-on workshop to create their own rhythms using a live coding tool, delivered by Dr Mike Cook from the Department of Informatics at King's. Workshop attendees had the opportunity to perform their new skills live during an open mic slot, before the floor was passed over to some seasoned Algorave performers who manipulated code in real-time, generating unique beats to keep attendees dancing.

'An absolutely wonderful, engaging, funny, sad, clever and very polished show – I learnt so much about AI which managed to take the personal and individual poignant stories about AI whilst conveying the big and trouble, as well as positive, themes and dilemmas around AI!' *Humans in the Loop attendee*

London Data Week Women's Health Hackathon

Working with us

Collaborative research

King's actively collaborate with organisations of all sizes and sectors on research projects to boost innovation and develop new products, systems and models.

Consultancy

Our academics and PhD students can provide expertise to help you or your business solve an issue, or can provide longer term, strategic advice to help your business.

Professional development and executive education

King's offers a range of professional development courses packed with insights and learning to help you fulfil your potential and boost your career prospects. We can tailor our courses and workshops to your business needs and offer the flexibility that your business requires.

Events

We have an annual programme of events and regularly build relationships with external organisations and collaborate on events.

76%
attendees agreed that they gained new knowledge about AI or its potential applications during the festival

'I've gained a much deeper appreciation of both the benefits and opportunities that AI adoption presents. The course equipped me with practical knowledge of various AI tools and introduced me to the art of prompt design.' *Learner on 'Fundamentals of AI: A Practical Guide for Businesses' course, autumn 2024*

Contact us at ai-institute@kcl.ac.uk

Education and training

The Institute uses its networks and channels to support better connectivity and strategic development of educational offerings for King's learners at all levels, support the translation of research into teaching and pedagogy, and develop education and training packages to benefit business and public sector organisations and foster new external partnerships.

Fundamentals of AI: A Practical Guide for Businesses

The Institute was chosen by Devon County Council to deliver a short course on AI fundamentals to small and medium enterprise (SME) owners in Southwest England. The course was delivered on behalf of Devon County Council as part of the Digital Skills Series Programme, funded by the Heart of the Southwest LEP Local Growth Deal.

This online course was made up of flexible learning over a four-week period and was comprised of expert-led sessions and 1:1 support designed to help SME senior leaders to explore the benefits AI can bring to businesses. Half of the 80 places were ring-fenced for individuals who are underrepresented in the technology sector, such as women, Black, Asian and ethnic minorities, disabled individuals and individuals aged 50 and over.

The course was the latest initiative from King's to enhance understanding of AI in society as part of its commitment to service and bringing together multidisciplinary expertise to address real-world issues.

'The course provided me with a comprehensive understanding of AI fundamentals that I previously lacked. I've gained a much deeper appreciation of both the benefits and opportunities that AI adoption presents. The course equipped me with practical knowledge of various AI tools.' *Fundamentals of AI learner*

AI and Education

Since 2023, King's has adopted a strategic, pedagogically grounded response to the rapid rise of Generative AI which has been led by colleagues in King's Academy, a central team at King's whose mission is to support King's educators to provide the best teaching and learning experience for students. Dr Martin Compton of King's Academy co-leads the AI EDU Working Group with Trevor Baxter, Director of IT Innovation at King's, and this academic year the group's focus has been on integration and coherence of AI initiatives in teaching and learning across the university.

The Institute sits on this working group. This year collaboration between the Institute, King's Academy and the AI EDU working group has included:

- **The organisation of a full day of events centred on AI** in education during the King's Festival of Artificial Intelligence (see page 29).
- **In September 2024 the Institute hosted Drew Mayhills,** Chief Learning and Development Officer at the

'The inclusion of students in the session speaks volumes of how the team at King's are listening closely to all involved – and inviting them to the table as we work through the challenges together.' *Drew Mayhills, Chief Learning and Development Officer, Australian Institute of Management*

Australian Institute of Management. Undertaking a Churchill Fellowship, Drew was investigating the potential for AI to enhance teacher effectiveness. The Institute and King's Academy brought together colleagues from the AI EDU working group to meet with Drew and share reflections on how AI can support educators and address the challenges they face.

- **King's Academy launched a new 'AI in Education' course** in May. This was developed by Dr Martin Compton of King's Academy and designed by King's Digital, building on an earlier version of the course. King's staff and students have free unlimited access to the course. Those outside of King's have free access for three weeks. The self-directed, self-taught course is designed to widen educators' understanding of AI and the way it is reshaping education. Almost 14,500 participants have undertaken the course as of August 2025.

'This broad community is so helpful to me personally as this space is so dynamic. As we make sense of what for many is an overwhelming challenge, the Institute is both beacon and anchor.' *Dr Martin Compton, AI and Innovation in Education Lead, King's Academy*

Young Westminster Foundation AI Training for Youth Workers

The Institute joined the 2025 *Level Up Youth Conference* for youth workers, presented by the Young Westminster Foundation. The conference was designed for small, community-led youth organisations and provided access to high-quality training, expert-led discussions, and networking opportunities.

Cari Hyde-Vaamonde, Institute affiliate from The Dickson Poon School of Law, delivered a workshop on 'Harnessing AI for the Youth and Charity Sector'. This interactive workshop introduced attendees to an exploration of how AI can be harnessed to help develop material for a variety of youth and charity activities. Attendees didn't need any technical background to attend, and they took away skills and knowledge that they'd be able to share with their wider teams.

'It was exceptionally rewarding to contribute prompt engineering expertise and then see participants' sophisticated approach to balancing AI innovation in charitable work with careful consideration of potential risks.' *Cari Hyde-Vaamonde, The Dickson Poon School of Law*

Internal and external visibility

Visibility of the Institute and AI at King's underpins the success of our efforts. The Institute creates and promotes a coherent external presence for AI at King's, showcasing work and activity across the breadth of the university. Achieving this requires internal recognition of the Institute as a vehicle for raising the profile of AI work at King's and therefore implicitly includes a pre-requisite for the Institute to hold sufficient internal visibility to be highly discoverable as a focal point for AI.

Events

The King's Institute for Artificial Intelligence runs an annual programme of events. The programme consists of:

COMMUNITY EVENTS to bring together the AI communities at King's around new and emerging research problems

PUBLIC EVENTS to raise the profile of King's research and education outside of the university

RESEARCH EVENTS to showcase the AI expertise at King's and stimulate interdisciplinary collaboration opportunities

In 2024–25, the Institute delivered, co-hosted or supported 74 events, seen in Figure 6 mapped to the Institute's priorities.

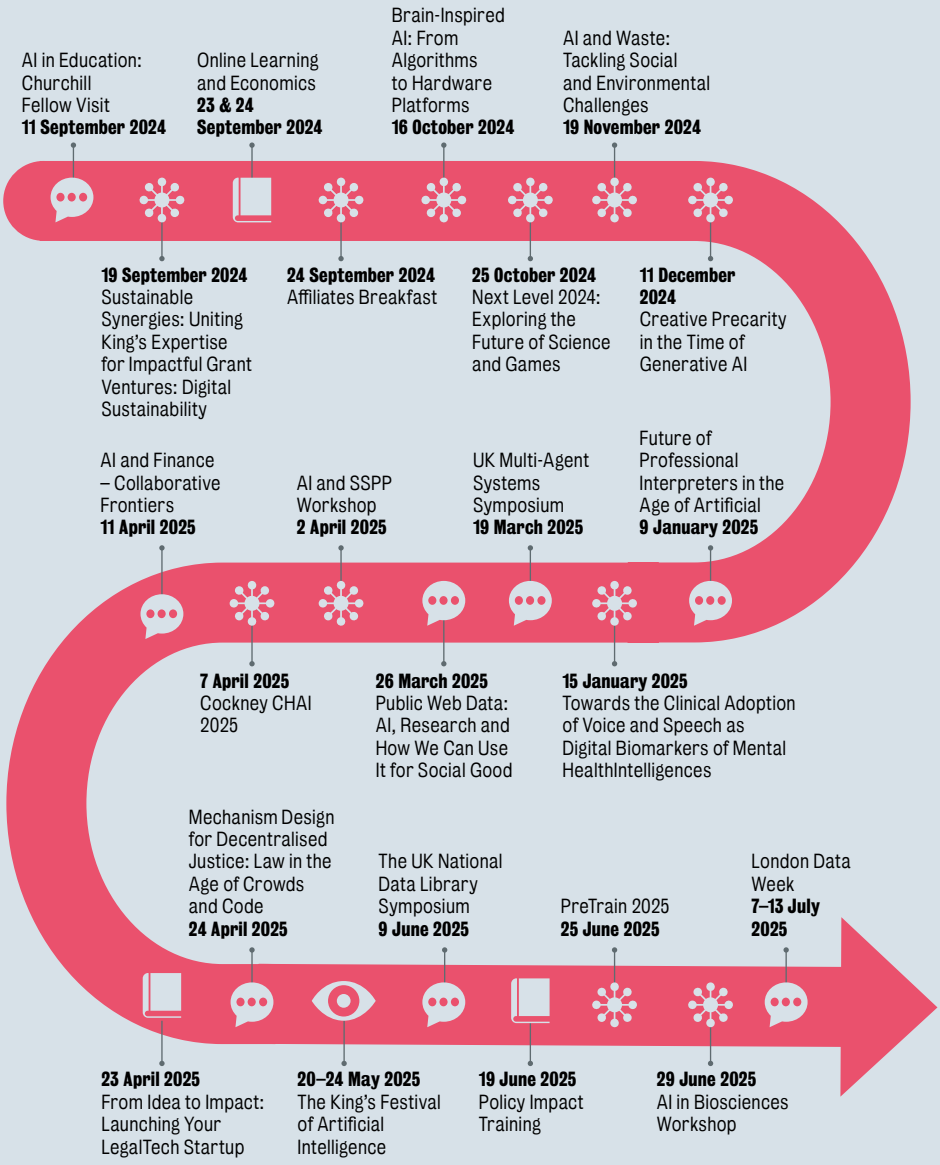


Figure 6. Events and activities during 2024-25 mapped to Institute priority goals

A CONNECTED AND COORDINATED RESEARCH COMMUNITY | ENGAGEMENT AND EXTERNAL COLLABORATIONS | EDUCATION AND TRAINING | INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL VISIBILITY

Institute communications

The Institute uses its social media, newsletters, and web presence to raise the profile of AI work at King's. This year the Institute's reach and engagement has increased across all channels, suggesting AI at King's is reaching new audiences beyond the university, and beyond London.

Newsletters

AI at King's

Launched in January 2025, the AI at King's newsletter highlights how King's experts are shaping the future of AI to an audience of over 2,000 subscribers. This is a public newsletter which incorporates spotlights on key activity from the Institute, opportunities to engage with King's AI research at events, news about AI research from across the university, and insights from across the AI landscape.

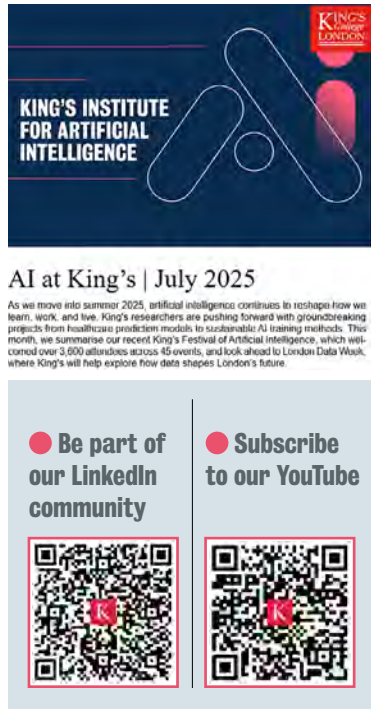
Round-up

The Institute also has a newsletter for King's staff and students. The Round-up is received by almost 600 people across the university, and includes events and activities run by the Institute, other King's events and activities that are of interest to the AI community at King's, relevant AI news and updates from across the university, as well as external funding and other opportunities.

Want to receive either of these newsletters? Email ai-institute@kcl.ac.uk to sign up.

YouTube

Watch a selection of recorded public lectures and events from the King's Institute for Artificial Intelligence on our YouTube channel.



INSTITUTE'S WEBSITE

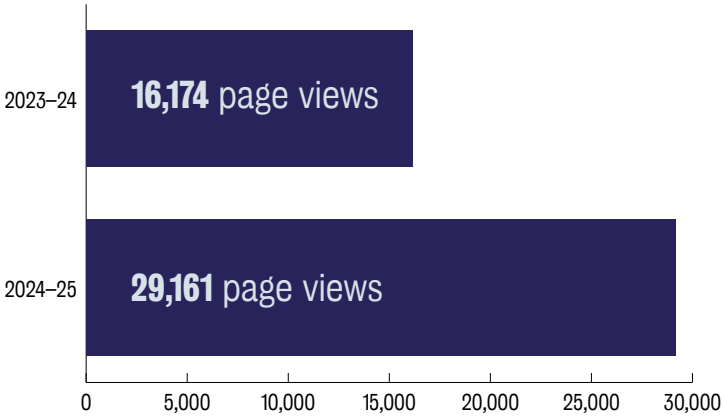


Figure 5. Growth in website page views

LINKEDIN FOLLOWERS

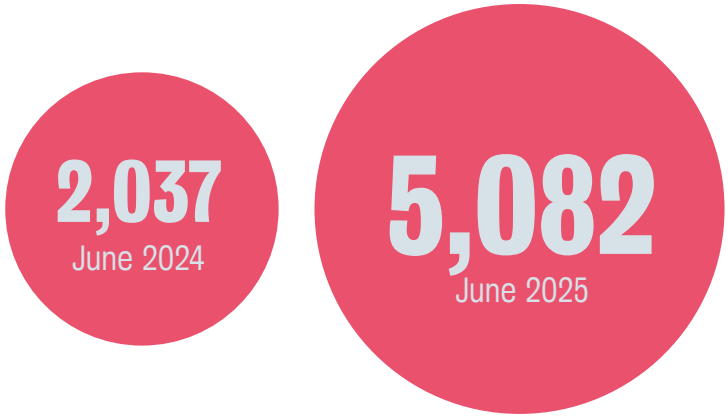


Figure 6. Growth in LinkedIn followers

LINKEDIN IMPRESSIONS

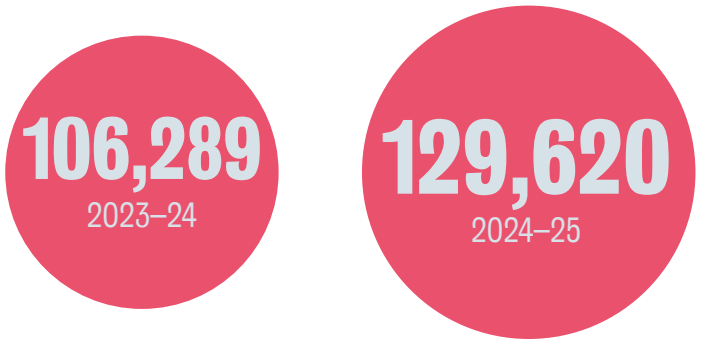


Figure 7. Growth in LinkedIn impressions

Looking ahead

Artificial intelligence (AI) is transforming our society, our economy, and our environment. Used wisely, AI can help tackle the grand challenges the world is facing today, whether in healthcare, global security, or the climate crisis.

King's is committed to ensuring AI brings positive benefits to all, and to being recognised as an AI-first, globally-leading university in artificial intelligence innovation, application and impact. Central to this ambition is interdisciplinary research that harnesses AI to address societal, environmental and global challenges, drawing on the humanities, social sciences and STEM.

The King's Institute for Artificial Intelligence will play a leading role in accelerating King's AI ambitions by connecting interdisciplinary expertise, driving research collaborations and leading impactful programmes of work.

In 2025–26, we will launch 'Doing Science Better with AI', an initiative that examines what responsible, inclusive and transparent research looks like when researchers use AI tools and agents in their work. This is a programme for all researchers, not just those conducting research in fundamental AI or its applications and societal implications.

The coming year will also see the launch of 'AI and Workforce Futures', a programme jointly led by the King's Institute for Artificial Intelligence and the Policy Institute. Our work will bring together King's experts across disciplines and from industry and policy to produce new research and insights into the impact of AI on labour markets, the economics of AI, and the role that universities might play in equipping graduates to navigate workplaces of the future.

Professor Sir Bashir M. Al-Hashimi and Professor Elena Simperl

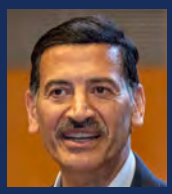
The new academic year will also see the Institute welcome a cohort of up to 17 exceptionally talented Fellows to Kings, as part of the university's 'AI+ Programme', a major £18m strategic investment focused on AI innovation and application across interdisciplinary themes including, but not limited to, health, technology, security, creative industries, business, law and education.

Alongside this work, we will continue to use our convening power to bring stakeholders from across the AI ecosystem to King's through our annual programme of events, cultivating a community of interdisciplinary AI expertise and a rich network of external partners and collaborators. Find out more at **kcl.ac.uk/ai**.

It is a thrilling time to work in AI at King's. We are looking forward to the year ahead, and to sharing our achievements in the 2026 annual report.

INSTITUTE LEADERSHIP

Professor Carmine Ventre
Interim Institute Director
September 2023 – May 2025



Professor Sir Bashir M. Al-Hashimi
Institute Co-Director
June 2025 –

Professor Elena Simperl
Institute Co-Director
June 2025 –

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Dr Catherine Healy
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Contact us via
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STEERING GROUP 2024–25

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Dr Mads Bergholt
Senior Lecturer in Biophotonics, Faculty of Dentistry, Oral & Craniofacial Sciences

Dr Elisa Cavatorta
Reader in Economics and Vice Dean (International), Faculty of Social Science & Public Policy

Dr Arianna Ciula
Director & Senior Research Software Analyst at King's Digital Lab, Faculty of Arts & Humanities

Professor Kate Devlin
Professor of Artificial Intelligence & Society, Chair-Director of the Digital Futures Institute, Faculty of Arts & Humanities

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Dr Robert Knight
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Dr Siobhan O'Connor
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