



SCHOLARSHIP CALL

IV INTERNATIONAL COURSE DATA SCIENCE FOR PUBLIC POLICY ONLINE EDITION – AFRICA 2026

Available at <https://www.agcid.gob.cl>
Chilean Agency of International Cooperation for Development - AGCID

GENERAL INFORMATION

I. NAME OF THE PROGRAM:

Data Science for Public Policy Course (hereinafter referred to as the Course).

II. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

This Fourth version of the course is part of the international cooperation program that Chile has promoted over the last thirty years; a sign of the country's commitment to cooperation with third countries through the training and formation of high-level human capital in different areas for the development and innovation of relevant public policies.

To this end, South-South Cooperation promotes the exchange of technical and professional knowledge, which seeks to promote the development of countries according to their own characteristics and needs, aligned with the fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda. In this area, AGCID has led the Chilean initiative, together with various institutions of higher education, as well as other agencies, to generate an offer of academic and technical cooperation that is directly related to the needs and different realities of our partner countries.

Given the above, this academic program has been developed in collaboration between the Chilean Agency of International Cooperation for Development (AGCID) and the University of Chile, with the aim of making available to Angola, Algeria, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Morocco, Mozambique, and South Africa, as well as to the State of Palestine as a special guest to this edition, the knowledge and technical experience that Chile has achieved in this area. This facilitates processes in which public decisions adequately incorporate the evidence available in each country.

III. SUPERIOR GOAL:

To enable participants to acquire, by the end of the course, a practical and applied understanding of Data Science concepts and analytical tools, in order to support informed decision-making processes in the public sector. Participants will develop the ability to interpret data, identify patterns and biases, and apply evidence-based criteria in the formulation, implementation, and evaluation of public policies, within an ethical and responsible framework for data use.

IV. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The course "Data Science for Public Policy" offers a practical introduction to Data Science applied to public policy and government management. Participants will explore the foundational concepts of the field — including Big Data, Data Mining, and the CRISP-DM methodology — and examine how data is transforming decision-making in the public sector through relevant case studies and real-world applications.

The course progressively builds analytical skills, covering descriptive statistics, exploratory data analysis, correlation, data visualization, and regression models, with an emphasis on interpreting outputs rather than manual calculation. The final module addresses the critical challenge of data biases — including bias in data collection, algorithms, and result interpretation — and introduces the principles of Responsible AI, equipping participants to apply ethical and evidence-based criteria in their professional practice.

V. EXPECTED RESULTS:

At the end of the course, participants will acquire the following competencies:

- **Explain** the fundamental concepts of Data Science — including the data cycle, CRISP-DM methodology, and Gartner's four analytics capabilities — relating them to concrete challenges of public management in their countries of origin.
- **Apply** exploratory data analysis techniques, correlation, data visualization, and regression models to interpret public sector datasets, identifying patterns, trends, and anomalies relevant to informed decision-making.
- **Analyze** the presence of biases in data collection, algorithms, and result interpretation, distinguishing when analytical outputs constitute sufficient evidence to support a public policy decision and when they do not.

VI. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The following is a brief description of the contents of each of the four modules that make up the course:

Module 1: Introduction to Data Science

In this initial module, participants will be introduced to the world of Data Science. It will explore the basic concepts, the importance of data in decision making process and provide an overview of the tools and techniques used in this constantly evolving field.

The specific contents to be covered will be:

- Motivation: The future of work
- What is Data Science?
- Key Concepts: Big Data, Data Mining, KDD and CRISP-DM Methodology
- The Data Cycle
- Gartner's Four Analytics Capabilities
- What is Artificial Intelligence? How does an AI model learn?

Module 2: Data Science in the Public Sector

This module focuses on understanding how Data Science is transforming public policy and management. It will examine relevant case studies and discuss the specific opportunities and challenges faced by public sector practitioners in using data to inform decision making process.

The specific contents to be covered will be:

- Analogical Government, e-Government and Digital Government
- OECD Digital Policy Model
- Data Driven Government
- Digital Transformation in the Public Sector

Module 3: Analytical Models

In this module, participants will develop practical skills to analyze and interpret data in the context of public policy. Starting from descriptive statistics and exploratory data analysis, the module progressively builds toward correlation analysis, data visualization, and regression models. The emphasis throughout is on reading and interpreting analytical outputs — rather than on manual calculation — equipping participants to extract meaningful insights from public sector datasets and translate them into evidence-based decisions.

The specific contents to be covered will be:

- Descriptive Statistics: measures of central tendency, dispersion and distribution
- Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA)
 - Data structure and data types
 - Data quality assessment: missing values, duplicates and inconsistencies
 - Univariate analysis: distributions, histograms and descriptive measures
 - Bivariate analysis: cross-tables and scatter plots
 - Outlier detection and interpretation
- Correlation: interpretation and limitations in public policy contexts
- Data Visualization: charts, dashboards and visual storytelling for decision-making
- Regression Models: reading and interpreting outputs for evidence-based policy

Module 4: Data Biases and Responsible Use of Data in the Public Sector

In this final module, participants will examine a critical challenge in data-driven governance: the presence of biases in data and algorithms. Starting from the identification of the main types of bias, the module progresses toward the ethical implications of their use in the public sector. The emphasis is on equipping public sector professionals with the criteria to recognize bias risks and make more informed, responsible decisions when using data-based evidence.

The specific contents to be covered will be:

- Types of Data Bias: bias in data collection, in algorithms, and in the interpretation of results
- Real-World Examples of Data Bias in the Public Sector
- Introduction to Responsible AI: ethical principles, fairness, and accountability in public decision-making

VII. DURATION:

The course will be held in the year 2026 in 100% *On-line* mode. The course has a duration of 21 chronological hours, which include 18 hours of lectures, workshops and synchronous group activities (real time) and 3 hours for voluntary weekly tutorials. At the same time, each student must have 8 hours for autonomous work.

Classes, workshops and tutorials will be spread over three weeks, between, **October 13 and October 30, 2026**

Date	Day	Schedule	Activity
Tuesday	October 13	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (Chilean time)	Session 1
Thursday	October 15	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (Chilean time)	Session 2
Tuesday	October 20	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (Chilean time)	Session 3
Thursday	October 22	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (Chilean time)	Session 4
Friday	October 23	9:00 to 10:30 a.m. (Chilean time)	Tutorial N°1
Tuesday	October 27	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (Chilean time)	Session 5
Thursday	October 29	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (Chilean time)	Session 6
Friday	October 30	9:00 to 10:30 a.m. (Chilean time)	Tutorial N°2

The program modality will be virtual and requires dedication of 6 hours per week for synchronous activities (sessions of 3 hours each twice a week, and 1.5 hours for synchronous tutoring), in addition to the student's personal and autonomous work hours.

Students must participate via Zoom in the activities on the dates and times established in the calendar above.

VIII. METHODOLOGY:

This academic program will be taught under an *online* methodology, which combines lectures and group activities carried out synchronously through the Zoom platform, with personal and autonomous work of the students, which will be facilitated by the teaching support platform of the University of Chile, through the use of forums, online tests, among other features.

Students will have defined spaces to consult with the course professor (during the established tutoring hours) and with the support of tutors, who will be available to resolve doubts and queries, in order to guide the autonomous work of the participants.

The conditions for approval of the course will be associated with attendance and participation in classes and the delivery of assignments and evaluations assigned by the professor. The course requires a minimum of 70% attendance to the mandatory sessions for its approval.

Lecturer: The course will be taught by **Professor Jerko Juretić**, Industrial Civil Engineer and MBA from the University of Chile. Executive Certificate in Strategy & Innovation, MIT Sloan School of Management, and Diploma in Artificial Intelligence from UC Chile. Executive Secretary of Analytics Day 2022-2023. Member of the Institute of Engineers of Chile and member of the Harvard Business Review Advisory Council.

He has served as a senior consultant in strategic management, innovation, digital transformation and artificial intelligence. He has worked in several industries nationally and internationally, leading the design and implementation of strategic plans and organizational modernization processes. He has participated in projects with Entel, CORFO, Sabesp (Brazil), Judiciary, AGCID, SQM, Subtel, Ministry of Finance, Felix Bulnes Hospital, Government Laboratory, Budget Office, UNICEF, United Nations, Transvip, CODELCO, ENEL, SKRETTING, and the Chilean Energy Efficiency Agency, among others.

He is currently Academic Director of the Diploma in Digital Business Transformation, the Diploma in Analytics for Professionals and the Diploma in Management and Automation of Business Processes, all from the Faculty of Economics and Business at the University of Chile.

IX. LANGUAGE:

The course will be conducted entirely in English.

X. FINANCING:

The Program will fund¹ :

- Tuition and program fees.
- Digital Diploma of the Course “Data Science for Public Policy”, certified by the Department of Industrial Engineering of the Faculty of Physical and Mathematical Sciences at the University of Chile.

XI. REQUIREMENTS TO APPLY:

The course is aimed at people who meet the following requirements:

- Professional experience in the area of management and public policies and who have a Bachelor's degree and/or a Professional Degree.

¹ No additional items other than those mentioned above will be financed. Personal expenses must be covered by each participant.

- The courses are aimed at public officials from different levels of government, as well as researchers from universities and research centers, professionals from NGOs, international organizations and in general professionals working in the field of public policies and their management.
- It is desirable that they work in institutions related to the subject matter of the course and that they have institutional sponsorship.
- Be appointed by their respective governments in accordance with the procedure indicated in section XIV.
- To have access to internet network at least 7.5 hours per week for the development of *on-line* classes on the dates and times established for the course.
- Be a citizen of the country in question and be a resident of that country.
- Be fluent in spoken and written English.

XII. INVITED COUNTRIES AND/OR ORGANIZATIONS:

The governments of the following countries will be invited to nominate applicants for the Course: Angola, Algeria, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Mozambique, and South Africa. In addition, for this edition, a special invitation has been extended to the State of Palestine to participate in this call for applications; therefore, it is also included among the invited countries.

XIII. TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS:

The number of participants from invited countries will not exceed 60 students in total. There is no pre-established quota per country.

XIV. APPLICATION PROCESS:

The application and selection process consists of the following stages:

1. **Scholarship Application:** Process carried out by the applicant before the Focal Point of the respective country (Annex IV).

Scholarship Application: Process carried out by the applicant.

The following documents must be submitted to the Focal Point in their respective country:

- Certificate of degree(s) or previous academic degrees.
- Application Form (Annex I), with a record of all the information requested, duly completed and signed by both the applicant and a representative of the sponsoring institution.
- Applicant Engagement Letter (Annex II).
- Work Certificate (Annex III).
- English language proficiency (advanced level in reading, writing and oral expression). The Chilean Embassy in the applicant's country may certify such knowledge.

Candidates must submit their application with a record of all the information requested in digital format to the Focal Point in their country of origin (Annex IV) for pre-selection and officialization.

Applicants should inquire about the closing date of the call for applications at the Focal Point in their respective country.

RELEVANT DATES

Stage	Dates
<u>Attention Applicants</u> Scholarship application deadline at the Focal Point in each country	Until September 25, 2026
Scholarship Selection Committee	October 1 to 2, 2026
Publication of results	October 5, 2026
Notification to selected and creation of UChile accounts	From October 6, 2026
Beginning of the course	October 13, 2026

TO CONSIDER:

- Only applications officially submitted by the Focal Point will be considered for selection. No applications submitted directly by the applicant will be considered.
- It is the applicant's responsibility to carefully read the call for applications with all its requirements, application procedures and all the attached documents, as well as to submit his/her application in compliance with the professional requirements specified in each offer.
- The information provided in the application form and its respective annexes is a sworn statement. Therefore, in the case of having falsified, adulterated, concealed or submitted inaccurate information with the purpose of obtaining the scholarship, the applicant will assume the respective administrative, civil and criminal penalties, in accordance with the regulations of his/her country of origin. Likewise, the applicant will be disqualified from applying for future scholarships indefinitely. This must be reported by the committee formed for the implementation of the scholarship.

XV. SELECTION:

The selection will be made by a technical committee based on the following criteria: eligibility, priority of the Focal Point, degree to which it meets the profile, professional experience in the area of the Course, curricular consistency and possibility of impact, among other elements that the Committee considers relevant.

The Universidad de Chile will contact each selected candidate by e-mail, according to the contact information provided in the application form, in order to coordinate the corresponding arrangements for his/her participation.

In addition, the results of the selection process will be published on the AGCID website, www.agcid.gob.cl for the information of all interested parties. **NOTE:** only those selected will be notified by e-mail.

Both the awarding of the scholarship are exclusive resolutions of the Department of Industrial Engineering of the Universidad de Chile and the Selection Committee respectively. Both decisions are unappealable and the entities are not obliged to inform about the criteria of the decision.

XVI. OBLIGATIONS OF THE PARTICIPANT

- Applicants are responsible for submitting current contact information (Annex I: Application Form) and for periodically checking their e-mail accounts, in case of requests and official notices from the coordinating team, according to the dates described in section XIII.

- Participants will adhere strictly to the course program. Requests for changes or alterations to the initially established course program will not be accepted (except for emergency reasons, duly justified).
- The course will be held exclusively in a non-attendance mode for this edition. A minimum of 70% attendance to classes is required for its approval.
- Complete all the necessary formalities for their participation in the program, including authorization from the head of the program.
- Participants must pay for any personal expenses during the course or that are not specified in the FINANCING section.

CONTACTS

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ANNEXES

- Annex I: Application form.
- Annex II: Applicant Engagement Letter.
- Annex III: Work Certificate.
- Annex IV: List of Focal Points.