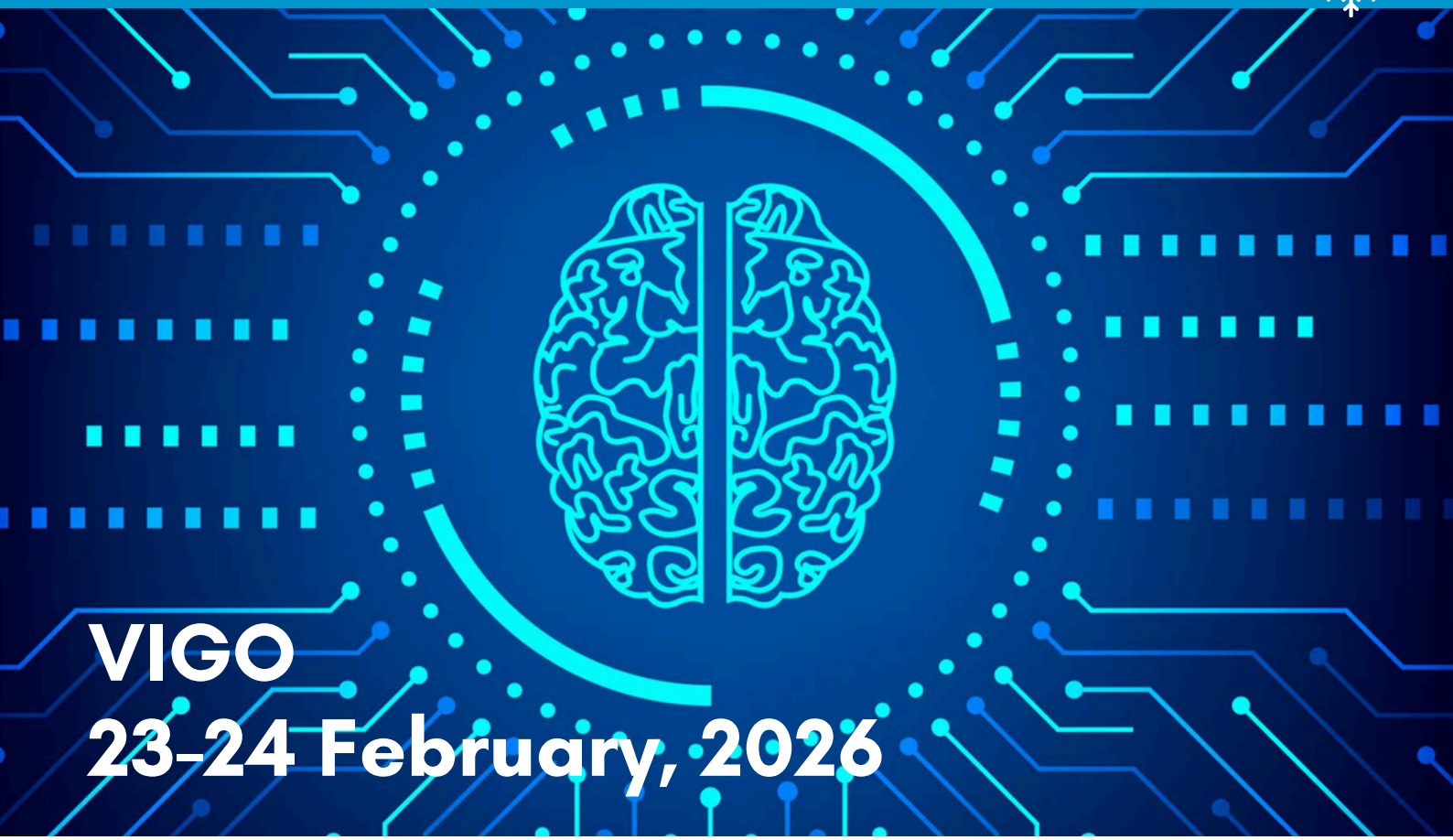
ECOBAS

Winter school



VIGO
23-24 February, 2026

Generative AI for Economics and Social Sciences

With Aleš Maršál

Expert Researcher in Generative AI

UNIVERSIDADE DA CORUÑA · USC UNIVERSIDADE DE SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA · Universidade de Vigo · XUNTA DE GALICIA · Cofinanciado por la Unión Europea · Fondos Europeos

Why is this course useful for you?

Generative AI is becoming a general-purpose layer across research—from literature synthesis and measurement design to coding, debugging, and writing. Used well, it compresses time spent on low-value friction (formatting, drafting, repetitive coding, data wrangling) and expands capacity for high-value thinking (identification, robustness, interpretation).

This course is designed to make that productivity gain safe and transferable: you'll learn not just "clever prompts," but how to build verifiable, reproducible workflows that keep you in control of assumptions, sources, and correctness—so you can move faster without lowering standards.

Learning outcomes

Participants will be able to:

- Build basic understanding of why LLM work
- Select the right model type (general vs "reasoning"; text vs multimodal) and set expectations for reliability.
- Use prompt frameworks that scale to real research tasks (structured outputs, few-shot, critique loops).
- Convert messy text/documents into structured data (extraction, classification, coding) with audit trails.
- Use LLMs with tools for data cleaning, analysis, visualization, and replication while keeping outputs reproducible.
- Apply grounding methods (retrieval/RAG concepts) and verification habits to reduce hallucinations.
- Use vibe coding to build API gates to fetch data, clean data and conduct econometric analysis and interpret results

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Agenda

Day 1

Foundations + Prompting for research quality (4h)

Day 2

Workflows + use cases for quantitative research (4h)

Instructor

Aleš Maršál has trained hundreds of professionals in generative AI across the United States, Europe, and the Middle East, including at the European Central Bank, the Czech National Bank, CERGE-EI, Yeshiva University, KAPSARC, and the National Bank of Slovakia.

In 2024, he led the International Summer School on Generative AI for Economists. His current research explores practical pathways for deploying generative and predictive models in empirical workflows and policy analysis, combining theoretical macroeconomics with experimental methods to assess the impact of generative AI on productivity.

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Course focus

In this course, we will learn how to use large language models (LLMs) as reliable research assistants for quantitative workflows —without sacrificing rigor, reproducibility, or research integrity.

Format

2 days × 4 hours/day. Each day we will have 2 hours lecture + 2 hours hands-on labs (individual + small group).

Audience

Researchers in economics, public policy, social science, data science, and applied fields. No advanced coding required (but you'll benefit if you can read basic code).

Tools

Chat-based LLM interface + Python environment (Colab) for reproducible analysis.

Students are expected to bring their **own laptop**, ideally with paid version of ChatGPT or Geminy, Anthropic or others.

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TARGET AUDIENCE

ECOBAS members, including predoc and posdoc researchers under the supervision of a PI from ECOBAS; PhD students of the Inter-university Doctoral Programme in Economic Analysis and Business Strategy.

COURSE ORGANISATION

- This course will be given on-site and online (ECOBAS Academy via Teams).
- There is a limited number of seats, on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Students must bring their own laptop.

LOCATION

Universidade de Vigo - Facultade CC. Económicas e Empresariais. Aula 156. Campus As Lagoas - Marcosende, Vigo.

DATE AND SCHEDULE

February, Monday 23 and Tuesday 24, from 9.30 am to 2.00 pm

TUITION

ECOBAS offers this course FREE of charge.

ENROLMENT HERE before 19th February

ECOBAS

www.ecobas.gal/en/courses

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