Governance Institute of Australia

Course outline

AI Controls and Assurance

Governance Academy

AI Controls and Assurance – course details

Mode of study	Online, on-demand	Virtual	Face-to-Face
Method of study	Independent, self-paced online study	Facilitated, within a virtual setting	Facilitated, in-person
Time commitment	6 hours of flexible online study including completion of assessments.	A 3.5 hour facilitated session followed by 2.5 hours of online study including completion of assessments.	
Access period	A short course and aligned assessments must be completed within the entitlement period provided. Entitlement periods apply as follows: • Any stand-alone short course registration - 30 days • Certificate registration (3 short courses bundled) - 90 days		
Course prerequisites	Short courses are open entry. There is no prerequisite study.		
Assessment	A short course is assessed as follows: • A final quiz (multiple choice, achieve 75% to pass, unlimited attempts). • A short case study written response (suggested answers are revealed for reflection). • Knowledge checks and interactive AI conversations are included as you progress through the course material (these are not assessed). • See the Assessment Rules for further information.		
CPD Hours	6 CPD Hours		

Course description

AI systems do not govern themselves. The decisions that determine whether an AI system is trustworthy, fair and legally defensible are not just made in boardrooms. They are made by the governance professionals who procure them, configure them, connect them to organisational data, define their operating parameters, monitor their outputs, and respond when they fail. This course is for those professionals.

The starting point is not what participants already know about governance, but where AI creates new obligations: how AI systems are procured, what data they run on, how their performance is monitored, and what happens when they fail or cause harm.

The aim of this course is to develop the capability of governance professionals to identify governance obligations across the AI system lifecycle, apply data governance and risk controls to AI systems, and recognise when those controls are absent or failing so that issues can be escalated appropriately within Australian organisations.

Learning objectives

- Identify the governance obligations that apply across the AI system lifecycle, from procurement through to decommissioning, and recognise where the absence of controls creates risk exposure and what documentation is required to demonstrate a system is operating within approved parameters.
- Apply data governance principles to AI systems at an operational level, including data quality, lineage, access controls and training data obligations, and identify where data decisions create risk that requires escalation.
- Assess monitoring frameworks and incident response protocols for AI systems, including the controls that detect performance drift, bias amplification and system failure, and the escalation mechanisms that translate operational signals into assurance for organisational leadership.
- Examine the governance implications of agentic and autonomous AI systems, including the specific control challenges they create, and develop well-reasoned recommendations for operational governance arrangements that are proportionate to the risks and legally defensible in an Australian context.

Course structure

Section A – Governance Principles

- AI system lifecycle and governance obligations – five governance touchpoints explained - procurement, configuration, deployment and integration, ongoing monitoring, update and decommissioning.
- Data governance in AI systems: architecture, quality and controls – training data as the foundational risk, what data quality means for AI, data lineage and provenance, access controls and data minimisation.
- AI risk categories and the governance professional's role in the risk framework – mapping AI risk categories to the risk register, escalation and what it means in practice, the breakdown of human review processes: automation bias and informed judgement.

Section B – Professional Practices

- Procurement, vendor governance and third-party Ai risk – what makes procurement different, contract controls for AI vendors, assessing AI vendor transparency claims, ongoing vendor governance.
- Monitoring, incident response and controls assurance – what AI monitoring must detect, threshold design and escalation logic, incident response for AI-specific failure modes, controls assurance.
- Agentic AI: operational governance of autonomous systems – why conventional controls are inadequate, scope limitations, tiered autonomy design, audit trail requirements, monitoring agentic systems.

Section C – Personal Thinking

Examine the case of Mobley v Workday, Inc. (N.D. Cal., Case No. 23-cv-00770-RFL), the most significant live test of AI vendor liability in employment discrimination in the common law world, and the one with the most direct operational implications for Australian governance professionals who procure, configure or are responsible for AI-powered HR tools.

The case is directly relevant to governance professionals because the failures it exposes are not policy failures or board failures. They are operational controls failures made by the people who built, configured and deployed the system.

For governance professionals in Australian organisations, the governance questions this case raises are not hypothetical.

Case study: Mobley v Workday and the liability gap in algorithmic hiring.

Governance capabilities

Governance Institute short courses address capabilities at the emerging level of our Governance Capability Framework, offering practical learning supported by professional qualifications and experience.

Governance professionals at the emerging level are continuing to learn to support performance in their role. They seek guidance and support on a case-by-case basis from peers and line managers. As they develop their knowledge through study and practice, they increasingly work autonomously and gain confidence in their abilities. As their knowledge increases, they may take the lead on specific initiatives and, in larger teams, may have some responsibility for the activities of others.

Capabilities addressed in this course

- Risk Governance
- Governance & Oversight
- Digital & Data
- Collaborating & Influencing
- Critical & Independent Thinking
- Reflection & Learning

Course author

Kara Bombell, Cofounder of Ethic AI.

How will my achievement be recognised?

A My eQuals digital badge is awarded by the Governance Institute of Australia upon successful completion of the course and assessments.

This badge can be shared across your online platforms.

Certificate graduates (three short courses bundled) become eligible for Affiliated Membership of Governance Institute of Australia.