EMBO | EMBL Symposium ‘AI and biology’

Workshops and tutorials open call - propose your own idea

Guidelines for workshop and tutorial proposals

Format type

- **Workshops** promote collaborative problem-solving, interdisciplinary exchange, and innovation.
- **Tutorials** provide expert-led introductions and hands-on training to key AI methods, tools, or cross-cutting skills.

All sessions will take place on-site only on 11 May 2027, remote or hybrid participation is not possible.

Format duration

For both workshops and tutorials you can apply for a total of duration of:

- half-day (4 hours)
- full-day (8 hours)

Facilitators organising committee

We suggest that workshops and tutorials should be organised by small teams, ideally bringing diverse backgrounds and expertise together. We recommend the following team sizes:

- Half-day sessions: 1-3 facilitators
- Full-day sessions: 2-4 facilitators
- Facilitator participation: each facilitator shall be involved in only one workshop/tutorial application

Workshop size

Please specify in your proposal the desired target audience and required equipment. We have rooms of different sizes with hosting up to 30 participants for workshops and 60 participants for tutorial sessions.

Timeline for submissions

Application opens: 2 October 2026
Application deadline: 16 November 2026
Acceptance notification: 30 November 2026
Binding confirmation for facilitators of accepted workshop: 14 December 2026
Workshop and tutorial announcement: 21 December 2026

Once the workshops and tutorials are announced, applications for participants will open. More information on the procedure and timeline will follow in due course.

Guidance for proposals

- Your session should have a clear goal or problem to address.
- Proposals should reference relevant AI and biology symposium session topics.
- Please clearly describe your target audience and estimate expected attendance.
  Workshops:
- Workshops should include time for discussion and interaction, not just presentations.

- Workshops may include a poster submission - facilitators are free to design the format and the selection process for contributions aligned with the goals of the workshop. We can provide the space for the posters, but it is the responsibility of the workshop facilitators to coordinate the poster submission and selection process.
- We encourage you to reach out to the speakers of the main symposium and request their availability as speakers for your workshop.
  Tutorials:
- Please include technical details: what tasks and equipment will be involved, and whether a presentation is planned.
- We encourage tutorial facilitators to prioritize hands-on time over presentations.

Selection criteria for proposals
Proposals will be evaluated based on:

- **Relevance.** Does the session address a clear, topical problem or skill that matters to the AI and biology community and is there a clear reference to one of the session topics of this year's symposium?
- **Distinctiveness.** Does the session complement the main programme, and what unique aspects does it bring to the symposium? Does the tutorial cover the field broadly rather than focusing on the facilitators' own tools?
- **Interaction.** Does the workshop build in real time for discussion and joint work? Does the tutorial allow for genuine engagement of participants with the experts? Is the tutorial genuinely hands-on?
- **Clarity and feasibility.** Is the goal of the workshop well defined and realistically achievable within the proposed agenda and time slot? Does the tutorial deliver the proposed skill or training within the proposed content?
- **Diversity and inclusion.** Does the organising team, and invited speakers, span gender, career stage, geography, institution, and expertise both AI and biology? How will the session reach participants beyond the facilitators' own networks?
- **Organising team.** Does the team have the expertise and experience to deliver? Early-career facilitators are encouraged; some collective experience is expected.

Selection process
Proposals are reviewed by the symposium organising committee against the criteria above, and the committee makes the final selection, taking into account the balance of topics and formats across the day. Please note that the organising committee may propose changes to your workshop or tutorial to ensure it fits within the overall symposium structure and available logistics.

What EMBL Events provides

- Meeting infrastructure
- On-site logistical and technical (AV) support
- Coffee breaks and lunch
- Bus transport to and from EMBL
- Workshop and tutorial facilitators receive free registration for the main conference: we can provide 2 vouchers for half-day; 3 vouchers for full-day.
- Invited speakers receive free registration for the workshops. Please note that we cannot offer free registration for the main conference or travel reimbursement to workshop speakers, so if you plan to include external speakers, we encourage you to draw on speakers from the main conference or experts from the local area.

Please note: no dinner is provided on the workshops and tutorials day (11 May 2027).

General information

Carefully review the general information for participants for EMBL events, including but not limited to the code of conduct, the inclusivity criteria, the terms and conditions, and the health and safety policy.

Facilitator commitment
By submitting a workshop or tutorial proposal, you commit to organising and delivering your session if it is accepted. If you can no longer lead it yourself, you are responsible for arranging a suitable replacement.

Apply to become a workshop or tutorial facilitator
Please submit your proposal via our application form.
All submitters will be notified by email about the acceptance or rejection of their tutorial or workshop by the notification date.

Application deadline: 16 November 2026
For questions about the call please contact: kevin.domanegg@embl.de