

# AI IN PROJECT FINANCE: UNDERSTANDING, MODEL BUILDING, AND ANALYSIS

## **COURSE OVERVIEW**

This program offers a rigorous and practical exploration of how Artificial Intelligence is reshaping project finance across different industries. Participants will master the foundations of AI, learn how financial datasets are prepared for modeling, and build AI-driven tools that enhance forecasting, credit assessment, and investment decision-making. Through hands-on exercises, real case applications, and structured guidance, learners gain the ability to design, evaluate, and deploy AI models that meet the analytical needs of modern project finance teams. The course further emphasizes governance, transparency, and responsible AI usage to ensure reliable and defensible financial outcomes.

## **TARGET COMPETENCIES**

- AI Foundations
- Project Finance Principles
- Data Preparation Techniques
- AI Model Building
- Financial Analysis Automation
- AI Governance

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Apply AI concepts within project finance environments.
- Build predictive financial models using appropriate AI techniques.
- Analyze project risks through machine learning insights.
- Evaluate model accuracy and interpret predictive outputs.
- Integrate AI-generated forecasts into investment decisions.
- Design clean and structured datasets for financial modeling.
- Implement governance controls for AI-supported analysis.
- Translate AI model results into actionable recommendations.

## **TARGET AUDIENCE**

This course is designed for project finance analysts, investment professionals, corporate finance teams, project managers, consultants, bankers, financial modelers, and public-sector specialists involved in evaluating or managing complex capital projects. It is also suitable for professionals seeking to strengthen their analytical capabilities using AI-driven methods, individuals transitioning into roles involving predictive financial modeling, and teams responsible for strategic investment assessments, credit decisions, and long-term project viability analysis.

# **COURSE METHODOLOGY**

The course employs interactive lectures, hands-on AI model development, real financial datasets, group problem-solving, practical simulations, and case-based analysis to ensure deep understanding and immediate applicability in professional settings.

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

### **AI FOUNDATIONS**

- Core AI concepts relevant to finance.
- Understanding machine learning types.
- Model accuracy and performance basics.
- Ethical and responsible AI considerations.
- Interpreting predictive financial outputs.

### **PROJECT FINANCE PRINCIPLES**

- Structure and components of project finance.
- Capital budgeting and investment evaluation.
- Debt-equity mix and lender expectations.
- Cash flow modeling structure and logic.
- Sensitivity and scenario planning.

### **DATA PREPARATION TECHNIQUES**

- Collecting and organizing financial datasets.
- Cleaning and transforming raw project data.
- Feature engineering essentials for modeling.
- Managing outliers and inconsistencies.
- Preparing time-series data for training.

### **AI MODEL BUILDING**

- Selecting appropriate model types.
- Training and validating financial models.
- Understanding hyperparameters.
- Evaluating performance metrics.
- Preparing models for deployment.

### **FINANCIAL ANALYSIS AUTOMATION**

- Automated forecasting and projections.
- AI-driven sensitivity testing.
- Pattern recognition in project data.
- Automated covenant monitoring.
- Real-time variance alerts.

### **AI GOVERNANCE**

- Governance frameworks for AI models.
- Model risk management controls.
- Data privacy and compliance.
- Transparency and explainability.
- Model documentation and auditability.

Virginia Institute of Finance and Management