For Students

Insights from the AI Skills Opportunity Map

WHAT THIS REPORT OFFERS YOU

AI is reshaping the labour market unevenly, at different speeds, across different fields. This guide draws on the findings of the AI Opportunity Map report to give you a clear picture of what is changing in the workforce you are about to enter, which capabilities are becoming more critical, and what you can do during your study to build them.

Download the full report →

01 TL;DR: AI in the workplace

AI is not changing all work in the same way. Across job families, it is reshaping work through three main patterns: automating structured and routine tasks, augmenting knowledge-based and analytical tasks, and leaving tasks that require human accountability and authority largely human-led.

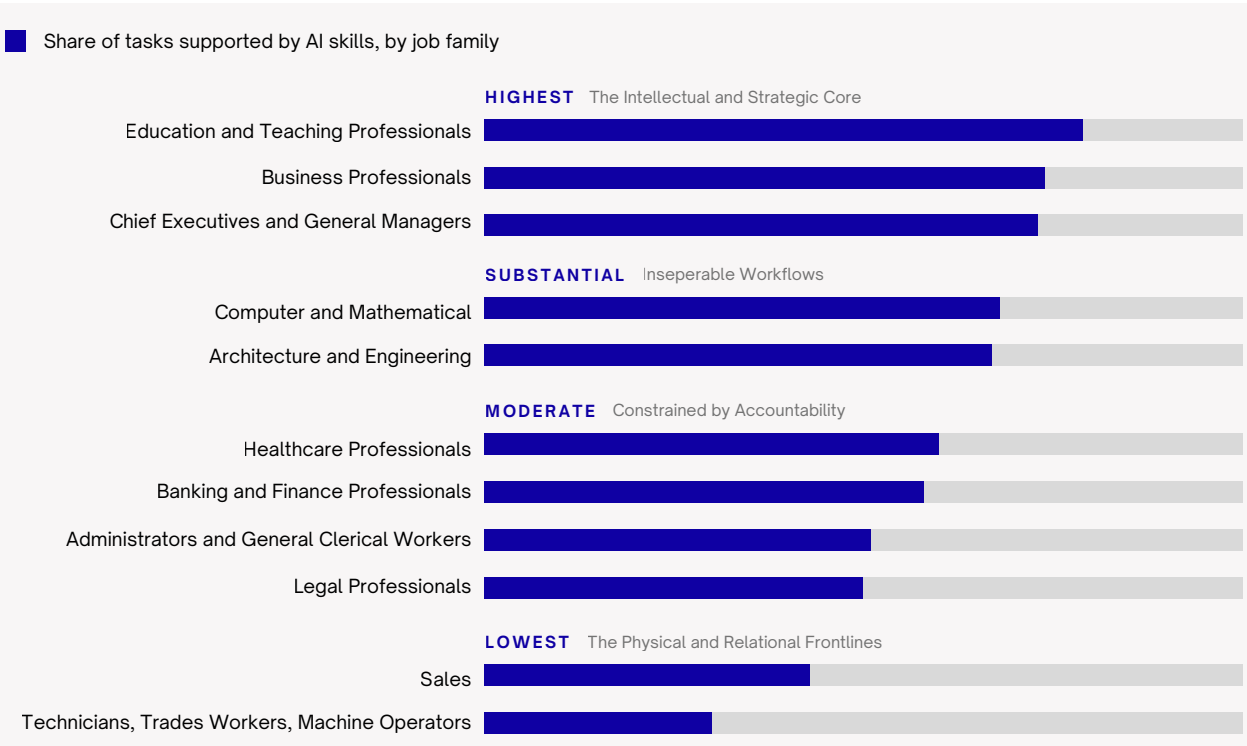
For students, this means preparing for work is no longer only about learning how to use AI tools. It is also about building the expertise and judgement needed to know when AI should be used, how its outputs should be evaluated, and where human responsibility must remain central.

02 AI Embeddedness across roles

AI Embeddedness measures how widely AI skills are becoming part of daily work within each job family. A higher score means that more tasks in that field can be meaningfully supported by AI-related skills.

A high AI Embeddedness score does not mean a job will be replaced by AI. It means AI is likely to become a regular part of how work is done. For students, these are the fields where AI fluency will be especially important for day-to-day performance.

FIGURE. AI SKILL EMBEDDEDNESS BY JOB FAMILY



03 Emerging Skills for an AI-driven workforce

Two types of capability become more critical in determining how well one performs in an AI-embedded workplace.

APPLIED AI SKILLS	Current skills — new skills will evolve with AI advancement
AI-Assisted Workflow Design	Knowing which parts of a task AI should handle and which require human input.
AI Interaction and Instruction	Directing AI effectively through clear, precise prompts.
AI Output Evaluation and Adaptation	Assessing whether what AI produces is correct, suitable and usable.
Elevation and Decision-Making	Using AI-generated insights to inform decisions while retaining judgment.
AI Ethics-Aware Practice	Applying ethical and governance principles to ensure AI is used responsibly and within organisational and regulatory boundaries.

ENDURING HUMAN CAPABILITIES	Foundational capabilities that underpin evolving AI skills
Industry Expertise	The domain knowledge that lets user judge whether AI output is actually right.
Systems Thinking	Defining the right question before deploying AI to answer it.
Problem Framing	Understanding how AI-augmented tasks connect across a workflow.
Organisational and Social Intelligence	The ability to navigate organisational dynamics and interpersonal context.
Adaptive Agency	Developing an individual approach to AI and adjusting it as the technology evolves.
Metacognition and Cognitive Discipline	Recognising when reliance on AI is replacing rather than supporting one's thinking.

04 Get ready for the workforce

THREE ACTIONS TO TAKE DURING YOUR DEGREE

ACTION 1 **Build domain knowledge before relying on AI**

AI amplifies what you already know. Without a strong foundation, errors in AI outputs pass through undetected.

Resist using AI to skip the difficult parts of your coursework. Work through problems independently first, use AI to challenge or extend your thinking, and make sure you can explain and defend every part of what you submit.

ACTION 2 **Learn to direct and oversee AI**

Employers now expect graduates to evaluate, adapt and take accountability for AI outputs from day one. Build this habit during your degree through several actions:

- Validate what AI produces before submitting. This includes checking for errors, weak assumptions, and conceptual gaps.
- Adapt outputs to your specific context. Use your domain expertise and contextual understanding to shape the AI response.
- Be prepared to explain how you used AI and why the output is reliable. In most professional contexts, AI-augmented work needs to be justified.

ACTION 3 **Get experience solving real problems before you graduate**

Building professional judgement requires practice on complex, ambiguous problems and the degree is the structured opportunity to get such exposure.