The complete guide to becoming an A.I. Guardian

You have decided that you want to launch into the AIOSPHERE and you are ready to become The next A.I. Guardian. This is great because you will be greatly rewarded:

- Top 5 teams get an all-expenses-paid* invitation to A.I. bootcamp in Warsaw, Poland, where will be trained by exceptional international speakers, top minds in the AI field
- Access to the latest Surface Pro devices**
- A well-deserved place in the A.I Hall of Fame

*Microsoft will cover full cost of the camp 5 winning team including hotel and airfare. Local approval from both the Government Entity and then Microsoft's Internal Compliance and Legal Departments will be necessary, in order for us to cover all expenses. If any local laws or policies prevent this from happening, you will still be able to attend at your own cost.

** If the Surface Pro is not available in your country, an alternative device will be offered.

Who can enroll in this competition:

- University students, researchers and professors from Cyprus, Malta, Greece, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Russia, Hungary, Romania, Poland, Estonia, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovenia, Ukraine, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Serbia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Macedonia, Moldova.

- Also, we're looking to have a diverse, inclusive environment and this is why we've partnered with A.I. Accessibility, so every participant can have a fair chance at succeeding.

How to enroll in the competition:

STAGE 1

1. Gather your dream A.I. team made of: 4 students, 1 researcher and 1 professor (optional)
2. Think about a project that and solve local or global education pain-points through Artificial Intelligence. The Solution that will improve the educational journey for the next generation has to include one or more of the following resources: Azure Chatbot framework, Azure machine learning, Azure cognitive services.
3. It is mandatory to follow any Microsoft AI School courses and to get Azure for Students.
   - Microsoft AI School - for students to dive in and learn how to start building intelligence into their solutions with the Microsoft AI platform, including pre-trained AI services like Cognitive Services and Bot Framework, as well as deep learning tools like Azure Machine Learning, Visual Studio Code Tools for AI, and Cognitive Toolkit. Our platform enables any developer to code in any language and infuse AI into their apps.
   - Azure for Students Offer – Claim 100$ in Azure credit so you can build your idea.

As you know, there are 25 eligible countries in this competition so to make sure your team stands out from the crowd, look for inspiration and check out our platforms:

   - *Microsoft Self-paced Labs –hands-on learning based on each student / professor schedule with our 24 free, Self-paced Labs, to keep their cloud knowledge fresh – from building intelligent bots to developing real-time experience using Xamarin App, Cognitive Services and Azure Cosmos DB*
   - *Microsoft Professional Program for Artificial Intelligence - The AI track takes aspiring AI engineers from a basic introduction of AI to mastery of the skills needed to build deep learning models for AI solutions that exhibit human-like behavior and intelligence*
   - *Azure at edX – Students can learn about Azure cloud computing solutions on Azure storage, databases, security, networks and more.*
   - *Microsoft Virtual Academy - Free intermediate and advanced Microsoft training delivered by experts from Mastering Microsoft Cognitive Services to using Naïve Bayes and Machine Learning Server to Improve Data Quality*

4. The final step of the first stage is to register here bit.ly/Microsoft-AI-guardian-registration by **4th January 2019**. No demo necessary at this point, make sure to focus on the issue, how to solve it and why.
   - Don't worry, until the deadline, you will need only to sign in your eligible team and to send a 2-3 minutes video where you will present the idea of the project.
   - We will judge* the videos received from all the 25 countries and the best ideas will move to the next stage.

*Judging Criteria - Keep in mind the main issues our judges will look after:

   o *Impact, relevancy and deployment practicality in real life.*
   o *Complexity of the algorithm, what data sources are being used and how.*
   o *If other workloads besides AI/ML/cognitive are being consumed by the solution.*
   o *The innovation of the project.*

STAGE 2

1. On **11th January** we will announce the best 60 teams that have been qualified for the next stage.
2. The qualified teams will have more than a month (**January 12th - February 28th**) to implement a demo of their idea. Make sure you use this time wisely.
3. Starting **March 1st** until **March 15th** check your schedule! You will be invited to a Teams call to present your idea & demo. Make sure you are ready for this call, because only the best 5 teams will make it to the final.

STAGE 3

1. On **22nd March** we will announce the top 5 winning teams.
2. Polish any last detail of the project until **10th April** and pack your luggage! The top 5 winning teams will be invited to the **Final Gala** happening on **11th April – 13th April,** on a 3-day A.I. Bootcamp in Warsaw, Poland – guided by Microsoft's top A.I. people and our most trusted partners.
3. You will get to present your concept to the best A.I. minds in the field, so make sure you're ready to sell your idea and to answer hard questions.

Don't forget to spread the word during the whole competition, using the official hashtags: #MicrosoftEDU #AIguardians, #AI, in order to raise the awareness of the impact of Artificial Intelligence in education.

That's it. Fingers crossed!