

Probabilistic AI 2026

Project Information / Schedule

Where? Everything will be made available online at <https://project.las.ethz.ch/>. You will need to be in the ETH network or use the VPN to access the server.

When? The server will be online starting on September 18, 2026. You may then solve an ungraded task. This allows you to get familiar with the whole process (signing in to the server, forming a group, reading the task description, submitting solutions and handing in the task). While this is optional, we strongly advise you to do so. After the ungraded task, there are four graded tasks (graded pass/fail) that are released throughout the semester. The following schedule provides an overview of the hard deadlines. Changes will be communicated through Moodle.

Task #	Task release	Task deadline	Graded?
Task 0	Fri, 18 Sept 2026, 15:00 CEST	Thu, 31 Dec 2026, 23:59 CET	No
Task 1	Mon, 5 Oct 2026, 15:00 CEST	Sun, 18 Oct 2026, 23:59 CEST	Pass/fail
Task 2	Mon, 19 Oct 2026, 15:00 CEST	Sun, 8 Nov 2026, 23:59 CET	Pass/fail
Task 3	Mon, 9 Nov 2026, 15:00 CET	Sun, 22 Nov 2026, 23:59 CET	Pass/fail
Task 4	Mon, 23 Nov 2026, 15:00 CET	Sun, 13 Dec 2026, 23:59 CET	Pass/fail

Do you provide deadline extensions? It is your responsibility to hand in the tasks properly and on time. We neither send reminders nor grant deadline extensions. If you fail to submit your final solution including the project video before the deadline, it is graded as fail.

Are groups allowed? You are allowed to work in groups of 1-3 students, but it is your responsibility to find a group. You can search for teammates by posting on the Moodle forum. You may use the same group for all tasks or choose different groups for the different tasks. After confirming the group for a task, **you may not disband it or change its members**. All details on signing up as a group will be available at <https://project.las.ethz.ch/>.

You are only allowed to collaborate within your group. In particular you may not share code or provide details on how to solve the task to students outside your group. You may discuss general non-task specific questions about the contents of the lecture freely with other students.

Passing requirements: Each task is evaluated on a pass/fail basis. A student passes a graded task only if all of the following conditions are met:

1. The student completes the individual final hand-in before the deadline.
2. The selected final submission obtains a public score **equal to or better than** the public baseline.
3. The student submits a valid **individual video** link before the deadline.
4. The student successfully completes an individual oral follow-up if invited (**see AI Policy**).

You need to pass 3 out of 4 projects to be eligible for the final exam.

Individual hand-in and baseline: Every member of a group must complete the final submission/hand-in individually. The code/solutions/predictions for a project task in the form of a .csv, .py or .zip can be uploaded by one group member and then are available to all group members. However, each group member must select their own submission to hand in. Consequently, members of the same group may receive different pass/fail results. Submissions that are not handed in will not be graded, and you will receive a fail grade for the task if you do not hand in any submission. In order to qualify for a passing grade, the submission must match or beat the public baseline indicated. The private leaderboard/baseline is used only for the Projects Competition (see below) and does not affect pass/fail grading.

Individual video: Before each project deadline, you must provide a public link to a maximum one minute long video explaining your approach. Make sure that we can access the link till the 1st of February, 2027. Each member of the team must individually prepare, record and submit their own video in the student's own words. Team members may naturally present the same overall method, but identical or near-identical recordings or scripts are not accepted.

Submissions that do not have a video that we can access until the 1st of February, 2027, or have a video exceeding the 1 minute threshold will not be graded, and you will receive a fail grade for the task. For generating the video link, please use the ETH Polybox service (<https://polybox.ethz.ch>), upload your video there and generate a shareable link (see this [documentation](#) for more detail).

Deadlines and technical incidents: It is your responsibility to complete the final hand-in correctly and on time. We do not send individual reminders or grant informal individual extensions. Officially approved reasonable adjustments and exceptional cases handled under the applicable ETH procedures remain unaffected.

Do not wait until the final minutes to submit. If you experience a platform-wide technical problem, immediately contact pai26-info@inf.ethz.ch and include a screenshot and timestamp. Course-wide technical incidents will be handled centrally and communicated through Moodle.

Originality and Plagiarism: The code must be original work by the group that submits it. The use of open-source libraries is allowed and encouraged, excluding code that could reasonably be considered a solution to this or previous years' PAI projects. We do not allow copying the work of other groups/students outside the group (including work produced by students in

previous versions of this course). Publishing project solutions online is not allowed and use of solutions from previous years in any capacity is considered plagiarism. We will run a plagiarism check and, if strong evidence is found, we reserve the right to let the respective students or the entire group fail in the PAI 2026 course and take further disciplinary actions.

AI Policy: You are allowed to use AI tools (such as Copilot, ChatGPT/Codex, Claude Code or similar) when working on the project. However, you remain fully responsible for your submission and are expected to understand **and explain** the solution you submit, including the underlying concepts, methodology, and implementation. AI-generated output must be reviewed and tested rather than submitted without verification.

As part of the final hand-in, you must **briefly disclose which AI tools you used** and for what purposes (for example code completion, debugging, conceptual explanations, writing, or no AI use). This disclosure is not graded and the use of AI does not reduce your score.

Your project video should demonstrate your understanding and make clear that you are able to explain and reason about your approach and results. **To verify your understanding, we are using AI tools this year to evaluate, score, and assess the plausibility of your submissions and videos.**

If the submitted code, results, or project video raise concrete questions about a student's individual understanding or contribution, **the course team may invite the student to an additional oral discussion**. During this discussion, we may ask questions about the project, the submitted code, and the underlying concepts in order to assess the student's individual understanding.

We reserve the right to do so because whether or not AI tools are used, understanding of the submitted solution and the ability to answer questions about it is essential for learning about the course material. The projects are designed in a way that you should be able to complete them manually in a reasonable amount of time by only using lecture material, source papers and library documentation, which may be the most effective way of learning the material. .

Projects Competition: At the end of the semester, we will select the top-performing teams per task, awarding them a certificate and a prize for their performance. Selection will be based on the team's ranking on our public and private leaderboards, as well as the creativity of their solution and video. The prize details will be revealed at the semester's end. The private leaderboard is based on a separate test using a hidden dataset or environment. While you'll receive feedback on your public score, the private rankings will remain confidential to prevent overfitting to the public score. Your model should be capable of generalising to the private test set. Creativity will be assessed by our TAs through your video submission.

—

Last updated on 17.09.2026 by kiten