



Information Letter GALESS Conference Johannesburg July 4-8, 2027

Organizing School: African Leadership Academy (ALA)

Call for pre-subscriptions, pre-subscription form attached





Introduction.

Welcome to the 6th edition of the GALESS TiltShift Challenge :

-Artificial Intelligence (AI) for sustainable solutions -

With this document, we send you more information about a GALESS TiltShift Challenge “AI for sustainable solutions” to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, July 4th – 8th , 2027 at the African Leadership Academy.

This time we will focus our student’s research area on “AI for sustainable solutions” in our society in particular, with a reference to the research fields agriculture and education.

The TiltShift Challenge includes a period for research efforts followed up by the physical conference in Johannesburg including presentations of research results.

Research efforts will be starting at the earliest possible date, in September 2026 (more information on September 30th , 2026 in Information Pack 1 – IP1) and will be ending early June 2027.

The conference will give the students the possibility to present their work, take part in a learning week with a full guided conference setting, and meet each other in Johannesburg and visit places closely related to the topic.

Research concept.

The research activities are meant to be set in your school environment, in a school team of 4 -5 students (age 15-19 years old) and a guiding teacher. Reference contacts from your school, your local community and region who may serve as “living libraries” and, of course, further other external info-resources are also allowed in, to support findings in your research report. *We ask you in this case in particular to include the voice of the people that work already with AI, being subject of your research activities, into your research report.*

These research-activities cover a period from September 2026 up to early June 2027. Your team’s abstract, the written report, and a presentation in a “challenge setting” are part of the required deliveries before and during the



conference. GALESS will guide this process in close cooperation with the organizing team of the hosting school.

This TiltShift Challenge addresses an effort to contribute to awareness about complex questions in the situation of Artificial Intelligence usage in our society, looking for sustainable and responsible answers from our young generation in each part of the world. In whatever circumstances, our efforts will always be connected to our GALESS mission to motivate our students towards global sustainability.

The research-*thesis* will be formulated by the guiding team of the African Leadership Academy in close cooperation with the Jury Board of GALESS and will be published officially in IP1.

Preliminary research-directions :

Agriculture:

- Citizen science': How can we use AI tools for early detection and treatment of agricultural disease ?
- Feeding the planet: How AI is key to unlocking the planet's agricultural potential ?
- How AI can bring data-driven precision to agriculture and resource use ?

Education:

- Beyond the four walls: How can we use AI to break down educational barriers in low-income communities?
- How can AI end the textbook shortage?
- How can students use AI to improve literacy and home language resources?

Organization & procedures

A pre-registration procedure is included. Full, final registration, additional support by GALESS front desk and web-database, and so-called Information Packs (total 3) will be part of the preparation concept.



Students will be awarded at the end of the challenge, after the conference, with GALESS Certificates issued by the GALESS Jury Board in cooperation with the local jury-team in Johannesburg.

The Research Papers also will be published in a book after the conference to direct attention to authorities of all levels regarding the research results of all participating teams.

The Conference Offer

Accommodations:

Students and teachers will be offered accommodation on the campus of the African Leadership Academy. This accommodation-stay is included in the conference fee.

Conference Fee

The full conference fee consists of two bills:

- 1. School Conference fee: USD 550,- per student/teacher. There will be an Invoice from the African Leadership Academy approximately 4 months before the conference.**

(Included in the fee: Accommodation on ALA campus, all meals, program materials, program related excursions, GALESS certificates. Not included: International flights, other excursions, travel insurance, visa fees, personal expenses)

- 2. Additional GALESS Registration & CA fee of EUR 50, per student/teacher.**
See Leaflet GALESS CA fee in mail-attachment. Invoice from GALESS Front desk to participating school directly after full registration (July 2026).

Pre-registrations / registrations.

Please fill in the pre-registration form in the attachment and send it to: info@gales.org



The procedure for pre-registration (and final full registration) is as following:

1. GALESS will collect the pre-register forms in following order on the date/time that they come in, starting July 31, 2026.
2. Closing date pre-registration: September 15 , 2026. Full Registration: September 30 , 2026.
GALESS front desk will send out a confirmation-message on September 30th , 2026, with an official confirmation about the finally selected full registrations. The message includes an invoice for the GALESS CA Fee **(EUR 50 per participant)** at that time to fix your participation.
3. Information Pack 1 publishing date: September 30th , 2026,
4. Final billing of Conference fees **(USD 550 per participant)** will be executed *directly by the administration of ALA via official billing to the participating school*, approximately 4 months before the conference.

Further procedures / advice:

1. Schools from the African Continent are requested to apply and have a priority status in the subscription procedures,
2. Schools having participated before in GALESS Challenges and/or having a Premium Green Logo have preference in the registration process.
3. GALESS has special attention for equal opportunities for less privileged students. We'll try to find a balance in our final placement - registration list regarding this consideration.

The road to the conference : Publications & deadlines.

September 30, 2026	Information Pack 1 (IP1) Final registration GALESS CA fee Billing (EUR 50,- pp)
December 1, 2026	Call for Research Abstracts
January 15, 2027	Information Pack 2 (IP2)



March 1, 2027	ALA participation fee. Billing (USD 550,-pp)
June 15, 2027	Information Pack 3 (IP3)
June 20, 2027	Call for final research-reports.
July 4-8, 2027	GALESS Conference Johannesburg
December 2027	Publication GALESS Yearbook 2027: AI for sustainable solutions – publication research reports from 3 conferences