Post Graduate Executive Programme in Fintech, Blockchain, AI/ML & Data Science

Transform your learning experience with our 9 months blended programme

2023-2024

Comprehensive coverage of FinTech including AI/ML & Data Science
OVERVIEW

The financial services industry is undergoing a rapid transformation, driven by unprecedented advancements in technology, particularly Fintech. The business of traditional players such as banks, insurance companies, non-banking financial companies etc. are getting disrupted by innovations in the fields of Payment technology, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML) and Data Science. And the need for in-depth understanding of Fintech is slowly emerging as one of the top priorities in BFSI, today.

We have designed this course to help organisations build a talent force that is fully equipped to deal with the complexity emerging from Fintech developments. Our programme is designed to provide a high level of knowledge and practical skills in Fintech, Blockchain, AI/ML, and Data Science. Graduates will be able to apply this knowledge to their roles within their organisations, bridging gaps in understanding and helping design effective strategies to take their organizations to the next level.

On a personal level, employees who go through the programme will have a valuable set of skills that will not only benefit their current role but also enhance their career prospects. A good understanding of AI/ML and Data Science are one of the most sought-after skillsets today and expected to remain so for the foreseeable future. This course will provide participants with a solid understanding of the latest trends and developments in the Fintech industry, giving them a competitive edge in the job market.

Staggering growth of the Fintech industry

India has emerged as a leading hub for Fintech innovation in recent years, with several Start-ups and established companies launching new products and services.

Source: Invest India, National Investment Promotion & Facilitation Agency, India
Note: Bn – Billion

Fintech Growth in India

Market size

2021
USD 50 Bn

2025
USD 150 Bn

Fintech Startups

Fastest growing markets globally

Over 2000 Fintech Startups

Uses of AI/ML & Data Science in BFSI Sector

Automate complex risk processes such as underwriting and credit scoring

Block chain is used for enhancing efficiencies, improving security and transparency

Getting insights into customer behaviour

Detecting adverse issues and frauds early on
Indian government has also launched several initiatives to promote digital payments, financial inclusion, and Fintechs. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up a data science lab to promote innovation in the banking sector. The lab is intended to help banks and financial institutions leverage data science to improve their operations and create new products and services. The Jan Dhan Yojna has enabled Fintech companies to tap into the large consumer base generated by more than 450 million new bank accounts. The India Stack has empowered businesses with public digital infrastructure and has been a driving force for Fintech companies. These initiatives have further created opportunities for professionals with expertise in Fintech, AI/ML, and data science.

Every large corporate in BFSI i.e., banks, insurance companies, and non-banking financial companies are today compelled to understand and invest in these areas. And to do so, one of the biggest challenges is to have an org-wide understanding of Fintech; because Fintech is disrupting almost every area of the business for these organizations. It is no longer sufficient to just have one team fully equipped to deal with Fintechs. Every business group needs to have staff with good understanding of Fintech today. Only then will an organization be able to quickly deal with disruption and stay ahead of the curve.
According to a report published by BFSI Sector Skill Council, employers are seeking mid-management level professionals who are able to successfully map the industry knowledge with the technical skills.

- Only 2.5% of Engineers in India possess AI skills
- Only 1.5% Engineers are fit for new age jobs
- More than 60% of Fintech companies in India report a shortage of skilled employees
SPJIMR has introduced this course specifically for working professionals in the BFSI sector to fulfil the demand for experts in Fintech, AI/ML, Blockchain, and Data Science. The course is designed to equip participants with the latest knowledge and skills in these emerging technologies, helping them stay ahead of the curve of innovation and disruptions. The course is being offered by the Centre for Financial Innovation (CFI) and derives benefit from the various financial innovation initiatives undertaken at the Centre. Some of the key initiatives of CFI are listed below.

**Benefits of this course**

Transform your Career in Finance with cutting-edge skills in Fintech, AI/ML, Blockchain, and Data Science

The participants of this course will get to plug-in to the above listed initiatives and this is one of the unique aspects of this course, that distinguishes this course from every other Fintech course available today.
Highlights of the course

1. Highest On-campus Learning
2. International Faculty
3. Opportunity to Work with Start-ups
4. Eligible for Alumni Status
5. Access to Exclusive Reports
6. Weekend Classes
7. Live Online Sessions
8. Comprehensive coverage of FinTech with AI/ML focus

Other Initiatives at CFI
**Course Structure**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Modules</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Hrs.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Foundation | • Discounted Cash Flows, Cost of Capital and Valuation overview  
• Financial Institutions and Markets  
• Overview of financial instruments  
• The role of regulators and regulations | 15   |
| Blockchain | • Introduction & Basics (Concept building to be ready for Fintech)  
• Understanding Blockchain/DLT: Mathematical and cryptographic primer  
• A deep dive into Bitcoin blockchain  
• Enterprise blockchains and diverse use cases  
• Smart contracts, DApps, DAOs, and DeFi  
• Cryptos (Cryptocurrencies, Stablecoins and CBDCs, Crypto Exchanges, Cryptoassets, and Cryptoventures) | 30   |
| Fintech | • Eco, Fin & Tech in Fintech: A Summary  
• Swift, NPCI, UPI, CBDC & Payment Systems  
• Robo-advisory, Alt PMS & Wealth Tech (India & World), Algo Trading  
• Insuretech In India & Global  
• Fintech Banking, P2P & Alternative Lending & Reg Tech  
• Fintech Regulations Outlook | 30   |
| AL/ML/DS | • Introduction to Artificial Intelligence; Applications in Finance and Business  
• Introduction to Machine Learning  
• Deep learning and Natural language processing  
• Data Analytics using Excel and Python  
• Data Preparation  
• Overview of model building  
• Ethics and trust issues in using AI | 30   |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th></th>
<th>15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td></td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These modules are indicative and the final structure might undergo changes.

**Programme Structure**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>9 Months</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Programme Start Date</td>
<td>Q 4, 2023</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Sessions Details | Campus Immersion  
Occurring on weekends for three quarters, for three days each quarter at SPJIMR campus in Andheri (W), Mumbai.  
Live online classes  
Twice every month, 2nd and 4th Saturday for up to 4 hours each.  
Expected Hours – 70  
Expected Hours – 60 |
| Total Hours - 130 |

This is tentative and the exact programme dates & schedule would be communicated in due course to register applicants.
# Programme Fee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Programme Fee</td>
<td>INR 5,00,000 + GST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application fee</td>
<td>INR 2000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fee paid is non-refundable and non-transferable.

Fees include:
- Tuition fees for course
- Food and accommodation during campus visits
- Faculty and expert guest lectures
- Use of campus facilities, such as libraries, design thinking lab
- Study materials, such as textbooks and case studies
- Examination and assessment fees
- Access to research resources and databases
- Access to alumni networks and events

Fees exclude:
- Transportation to and from, for campus visits

# Eligibility Criteria

**Professional Experience:**
The course has been designed for mid to senior management professionals working in BFSI or Technology sectors. So this course is ideal for individuals holding positions such as AVP/VP/SVP/Associate Director/Director/Senior Director in the Banking, Financial Services, Insurance (BFSI) sector, Technology Companies, Consulting firms & Fintechs/Start-ups. This course is also broad based to deliver value to individuals working in strategy, sales, marketing & relationship management, project management, data analysis, or software development. We expect applicants to possess professional experience in roles mentioned above, demonstrating an understanding of or strong interest in the BFSI sector.

**Educational Background:**
A bachelor’s degree or higher in a relevant field such as computer science, engineering, mathematics, finance, or business administration is preferred. However, exceptional candidates with equivalent professional experience will also be considered.

**Leadership Potential:**
This course is designed for candidates in managerial and leadership roles. The course is designed to equip the candidates with in depth understanding of innovations in Finance and allow the candidates to lead teams and drive innovation and new initiatives in their respective organisation. The candidates must demonstrate strong leadership potential and an ability to drive innovation in their organisation. As this course emphasizes interdisciplinary collaboration and client engagement, applicants should possess excellent communication, teamwork, and relationship management abilities.

**Motivation and Interest:**
Candidates should demonstrate a genuine interest in fintech, AI/ML, data science, and blockchain technologies, as well as a strong desire to expand their knowledge and skills in these areas. A passion for innovation and staying abreast of the latest industry trends is highly valued. Participants must be open to acquiring new knowledge and skills, adapting to changing technologies and market dynamics, and embracing a lifelong learning mindset.

**Note:** The eligibility criteria described above are intended to guide the selection process. The final selection will be made based on a holistic assessment of each applicant’s qualifications and potential to contribute to and benefit from the course.
Application Process:

- The course has limited seats and we believe that this course will attract the most accomplished and influential leaders in the industry, who are eager to enhance their knowledge, expand their network, and take their careers to new heights. Hence the application process is highly competitive and designed to identify the most qualified candidates who possess the skills, experience, and potential to become future leaders in the industry.

- The selection process includes online interaction with a panel comprising both academic and industry experts and a thorough review of the candidate’s professional background, achievements, and references.

Documents required

Education
- Marksheet – Individual or consolidated (all semesters)
- Passing Certificate – If Any Diploma/ Degree/ Doctorate Certificate

Work Experience
- Relieving letters from previous Organisation
- Bonafide Certificate from the HR department certifying status of employment & years of experience on company letterhead

KYC
- Any Government issued photo ID like PAN Card, Driving License/ Passport, etc.

System requirements

This programme includes live online classes. To attend a live online class, you will need to have a PC/ Laptop/ Mac with:

- Speakers and microphone: built-in or a USB plug-in or wireless Bluetooth
- Webcam: built-in or USB plug-in Processor: with Dual Core 2Ghz or higher (i3/ i5/ i7 or AMD equivalent)
- RAM: 4 GB or higher
- OS: Either MacOS 10.7 or higher or Windows 8 or higher
- An internet connection: minimum bandwidth of 3.0 mbps (up/ down)
- Browser: IE 11+, Edge 12+, Firefox 27+, Chrome 30+ Zoom software client installed on your PC/ Laptop/ Mac

We use Zoom software application to conduct live online classes. Zoom works on a variety of PCs/ Laptops/ Mac systems and also on phones and tablets.

You can join your live online class from a phone or tablet if it supports the Zoom client.

We recommend that you attend classes from a PC/ Laptop/ Macbook.
Dr. Varun Yadav
Assistant Professor, Finance & Economics, SPJIMR
Associate Head, Centre for Financial Innovation (CFI), SPJIMR

Prof. Varun Yadav is a Ph.D. from IIM Ahmedabad and an MBA from IIM Kozhikode. His research interests include monetary economics, financial econometrics, Blockchains/DLTs, digital payments, crypto-assets, and banking. Dr. Varun’s research work has been published/presented in reputed international journals and conferences. He has rich industry experience, including roles in software development, technology consulting, and Wealth Tech.

Dr. Anurag Gupta
Professor, Department of Banking & Finance
Faculty Director, Master of Finance – China Program
Weatherhead School of Management, Cleveland, USA

Prof. Anurag Gupta, Ph.D., is a highly accomplished professor of banking and finance with expertise in risk management, banking, financial regulation, credit modeling, and technology financing. He has published extensively in top finance journals, presented his research at prestigious institutions and conferences around the world, and currently leads a major research grant from the US Department of Energy. He has long consulting experience with various financial and other companies around the world. He also serves as the Director of the Master of Finance program in Shanghai, China and has held various leadership positions at the Weatherhead School, including Department Chairman, Associate Dean for Global Initiatives and Vice Dean. He has a Ph.D. in Finance from NYU-Stern School of Business and is a graduate of IIM Calcutta and IIT Delhi prior to that.

Dr. Vidhu Shekhar
Assistant Professor, Finance & Economics

Prof. Vidhu Shekhar is a Ph.D. and an MBA from IIM Calcutta, and a B.Tech. from IIT Kharagpur. He has a rich corporate experience spanning Hedge Funds & Investment Banks in front-end Investment Management and Investment Banking (M&A and Private Equity) roles. He is also a co-founder in a stealth mode Fintech startup that is currently building an Automated Conversational Financial Advisor for the Indian market. Dr. Vidhu's research work is in the areas of behavioural finance, financial economics, and heterodox economics. His research work has been published in several notable international, and national peer-reviewed journals and conferences.

Disclaimer: The faculty composition for the Programme is subject to change. We reserve the right to make modifications to the faculty members without prior notice.
ABOUT SPJIMR

S. P. Jain Institute of Management & Research (SPJIMR), a premier postgraduate management institute based in the vibrant city of Mumbai, India. Since its establishment in 1981, SPJIMR has been at the forefront of management education, consistently ranked among the top ten business schools in India.

At SPJIMR, our mission is to influence managerial practice and promote value-based growth among our students, alumni, organisations, and society at large. We believe that to create a better world, organisations need to innovate and scale wisely, with humility, inclusivity, and socio-environmental sensitivity. That’s why we are dedicated to fostering responsible innovation that benefits society.

Our broad portfolio of management programmes is designed to equip our participants with the knowledge, skills, and mindset needed to excel in their chosen fields. We offer a range of MBA and other postgraduate management programmes, both for individual participants and organisations, all accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International) and the Association of MBAs (AMBA), UK.

SPJIMR has produced over 15,000 alumni who hold high-impact leadership positions in various industries worldwide. Our alumni network is a testament to the success of our programmes, as they act as mentors, collaborate with faculty, and sustain lifelong relationships with their peers. The strong ties between our alumni and the institute foster a culture of innovation, growth, and excellence, and they remain actively engaged, shaping our programmes and promoting the values of SPJIMR in their personal and professional lives.

Our faculty is a unique mix of accomplished scholars, richly experienced industry and non-profit practitioners, and hybrid scholar-practitioners. Our research is guided by a quest for relevance, and our four Centres of Practice focus on learning about and influencing important communities. As a result, our participants are more practice-ready upon graduation than their external peers.

Located in Mumbai, one of the world’s most vibrant cities, we enjoy strong ties with national and international businesses, which adds currency, relevance, and impact to our teaching and thought leadership, and produces outstanding placement results. Our participants are exposed to leading practitioners in the classroom and enjoy the excitement and cultural flair of Mumbai outside the classroom.

At SPJIMR, we are committed to advancing wise innovation at scale through our teaching, thought leadership, and industry and community engagement. We invite you to join us on this exciting journey towards creating a better world.
CFI intends to create a financial innovation ecosystem through practitioner-oriented research, education, and a start-up accelerator for the financial sector. Our objective is to create an ecosystem which promotes innovation, collaboration and thought leadership in Finance.

About Centre for Financial Innovation (CFI)

The Centre of Financial Innovation (CFI) is a Centre of Practice with focus on innovations in the field of Finance.

Education Ideology

We have designed our programmes with a focus on industry requirements, collaborating with prominent financial institutions to ensure our participants receive the necessary skills and knowledge to thrive in the field. Our curriculum is continuously revised to incorporate the most recent trends and best practices in the industry, and our faculty comprises experienced practitioners with practical expertise, providing valuable real-world insights in the classroom.

Through our programmes, participants have the opportunity to engage with industry leaders and Startups to gain hands-on experience and develop the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in the fast-paced world of finance.

Whether you are looking to advance your career in finance, start your own Fintech venture, or lead initiatives within your workplace, our programme is designed to help you achieve your goals. At CFI, we are committed to inspiring and empowering the next generation of financial innovators and leaders, and we look forward to welcoming you to our community of learners. We believe that innovation is key to creating a brighter financial future. Our programmes and initiatives are designed to inspire and empower leaders to drive positive change in business practices.