Halderstone

Training module

AI Risk, Impact & Harm Assessment

Assess AI impacts and harms, document findings, and connect them to risk decisions in an AI management system

Are your AI risk decisions grounded in real impact analysis?

Overview

Generic statements about AI risk rarely improve decisions. Effective governance requires a structured understanding of who may be affected, how harm can occur, and how impacts translate into risk judgments.

This module explains how to interpret ISO/IEC 42001 expectations for impact and harm assessment, define clear assessment units, and identify affected parties. Participants develop harm scenarios, analyse impact pathways, and apply organisational risk criteria to evaluate severity and likelihood. The focus is on producing documented assessments that are traceable, defensible, and clearly linked to risk decisions and residual risk acceptance.

Target audience

- People involved in designing, building, operating, or improving an AIMS aligned with ISO/IEC 42001
- Executives and department heads accountable for the effectiveness and performance of an AIMS
- Those responsible for processes, policies, applications, risks or risk controls related to AI
- Auditors of ISO/IEC 42001 who want to deepen their understanding of management-side best practices (not audit technique)

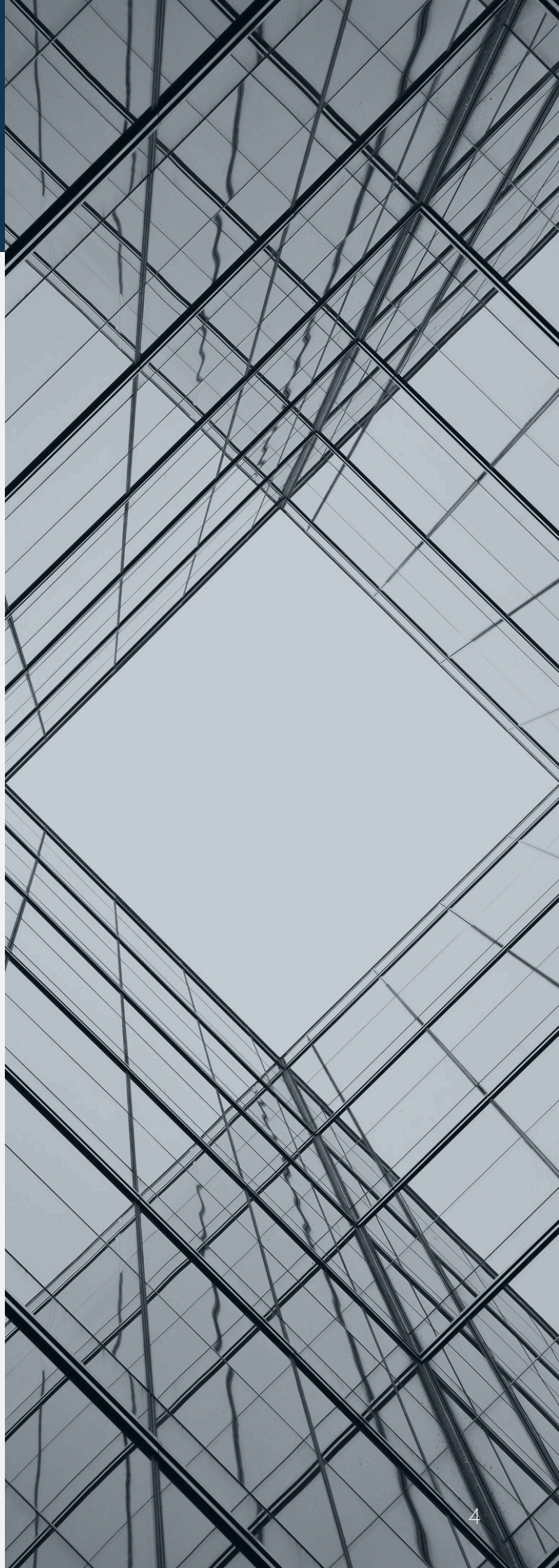
Is this module for you?

It is a good fit for you if you...

- need to assess AI impacts and harms in concrete, decision-ready terms.
- struggle to explain who could be harmed, how, and why it matters.
- must justify deployment, approval, or continuation decisions.
- want impact and harm assessments that hold up in audits and oversight.
- support or review ISO/IEC 42001 risk and assurance artefacts.

It may be less suitable for you if you...

- are primarily looking for general AI risk concepts or AI fundamentals.
- expect technical risk modelling or quantitative risk methods.
- want to design or implement operational controls.
- already operate a mature, consistent AI impact and harm assessment process.



Learning outcomes

Key outcomes

- Interpret ISO/IEC 42001 expectations for impact and harm assessment and relate them to organisational decision-making
- Define assessment units and identify affected parties and stakeholders for AI systems
- Describe harm scenarios and impact pathways and apply risk criteria to evaluate severity and likelihood

Additional capabilities

- Produce documented information that traces assessments to treatment decisions and residual risk acceptance
- Recognise implementation gaps and prevent "paper assessments" that lack credibility
- Integrate impact and harm assessments into existing risk and compliance routines

Agenda

What ISO/IEC 42001 means by risk, impact, and harm assessment

How to distinguish AI-specific impact and harm assessment from generic enterprise risk assessment and understand how the outputs are expected to inform governance decisions

Defining the assessment unit and boundaries

How to define exactly what is being assessed and recognise boundary choices that materially change the impact and harm assessment

Impact pathways and harm categories in AI use

How to trace AI system behaviour to real-world effects and identify typical harm categories and affected parties across individual, group, organisational, and societal levels

Applying the organisation's risk method to AI harms

How to translate AI harm scenarios into clear risk statements using existing risk criteria while explicitly capturing assumptions, uncertainty, and confidence

Treatment and decision rationale in ISO/IEC 42001 terms

How to connect assessment outcomes to constraints, controls, and usage conditions and document residual risk acceptance, escalation, and approvals

Documented information and traceability expectations

How to define a minimal, defensible set of records that supports traceability to obligations, internal requirements, and monitoring inputs without overengineering

Audit-facing view: what "good" looks like in evidence

How to recognise evidence patterns auditors expect for impact and harm assessment and avoid common failure modes such as vague statements and unowned assumptions

Case-based workshop

Applying the learned concepts, methods, and approaches in a realistic case setting

Included materials

Learning materials

- Slide deck
- Participant workbook

Templates & tools

- AI impact and harm assessment template
- Affected parties & harm mapping canvas
- Risk criteria worksheet (linking to the organisation's existing risk criteria)
- Assessment review triggers checklist
- Supporting AI prompt set

Confirmation

- Confirmation of participation

Preparation guidance

Assumed background

This module assumes participants can already work with a management system and a basic risk process, and can understand AI systems at a practical level.

Helpful background includes:

- Familiarity with management system roles, responsibilities, and documented information practices
- Working knowledge of the organisation's risk criteria and approval/escalation expectations
- Basic understanding of AI system lifecycle concepts and typical ways AI can fail or be misused

Preparatory modules

Foundation (depending on background)

Useful if you are new to the underlying concepts

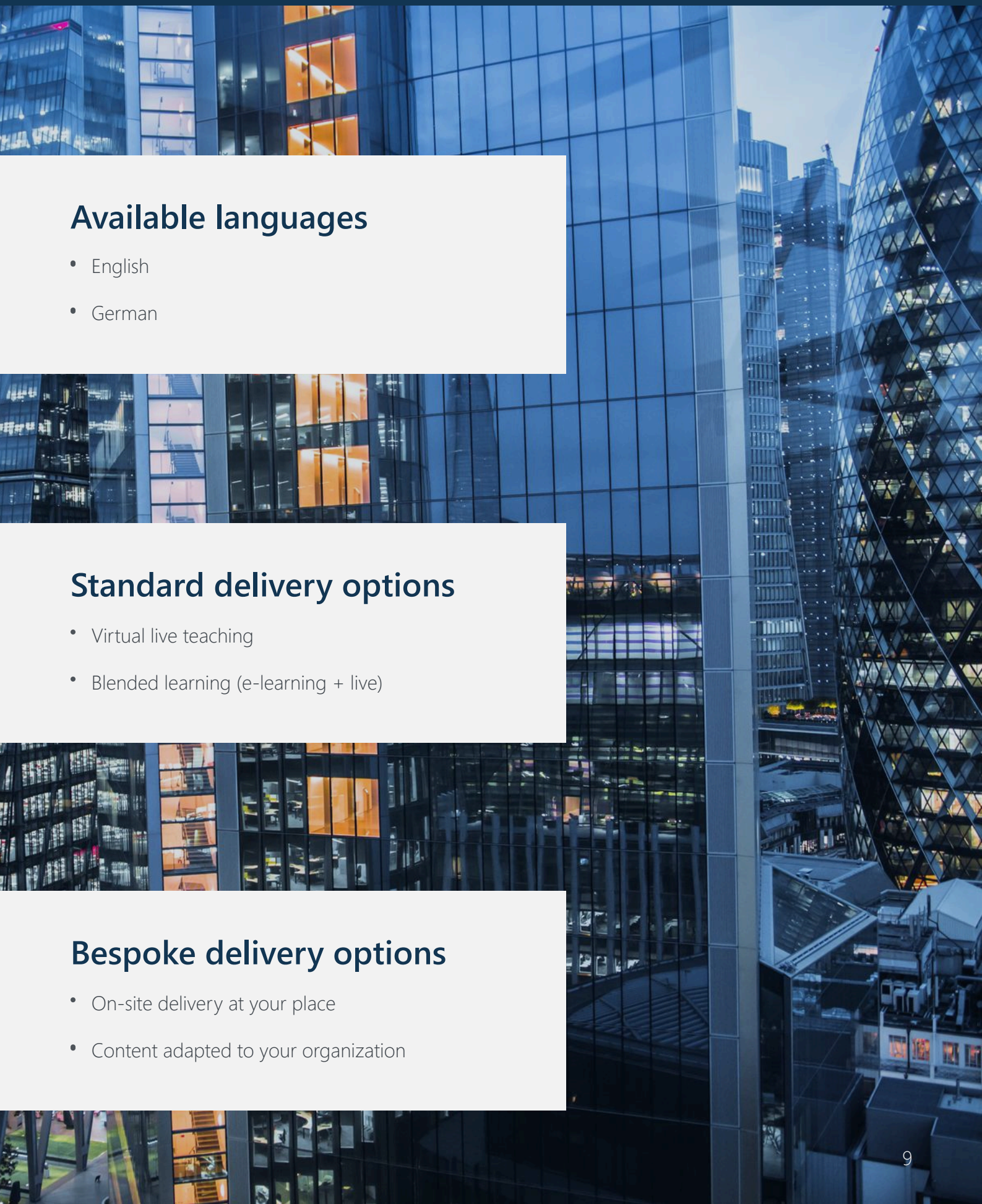
- Risk Management
- AI Limitations & Failure Modes
- AI System Lifecycle & Inventory

Supporting (optional)

Helpful but not required to participate effectively

- AI Systems & Architectures

Logistics



Available languages

- English
- German

Standard delivery options

- Virtual live teaching
- Blended learning (e-learning + live)

Bespoke delivery options

- On-site delivery at your place
- Content adapted to your organization

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