



# Microsoft: Azure, AI and Development Tools

Microsoft Azure is a comprehensive cloud computing platform that offers a wide range of services from data storage to machine learning. It is the backbone of many modern digital infrastructures, serving both startups and Fortune 500 companies. Alongside Azure, Microsoft provides a plethora of AI tools designed to create intelligent solutions, from chatbots to predictive analytics. The development tools available to students include software environments like Visual Studio, empowering developers to code, debug, and deploy applications efficiently.

## Benefits:

Gain hands-on experience with Microsoft Azure, AI and Development Tools:

- **Job Market Relevance:** Proficiency in cloud platforms like Azure and AI-driven solutions is becoming highly sought after in the job market.
- **Innovation and Creativity:** Microsoft tools empower you to bring your visionary ideas to life. Whether it's developing a novel app, automating mundane tasks, or leveraging AI for a unique solution, the possibilities are vast and thrilling.
- **Holistic Learning:** Grasping Azure and the accompanying tools offer a well-rounded understanding of the digital ecosystem. From backend infrastructure to front-end development, you will gain a holistic view of application design and deployment.

## Learn to Use Microsoft tools

- Microsoft's learning tools (**Microsoft Learn: Build skills that open doors in your career**) are provided at no charge and include courses for certification preparation, technical learning, and general education about the many available products.
- Udemy for UCI is available to everyone with a UCInetID and can be found at (<https://uci.udemy.com/organization/home/>). Udemy provides a variety of courses on Microsoft ranging from introductory to various certifications.

## Additional Resources

A multitude of platforms are available for learners where you can ask questions and seek assistance on a wide range of topics.

- For academic inquiries or subject-specific doubts, websites like **Stack Exchange** and its subset **Stack Overflow** are invaluable, particularly for coding or technical queries.
- For assistance on Microsoft-specific products, check out the **Microsoft Community forums** or the **Microsoft Learn Q&A**.

## Access Service

- **Azure for Students:**
  - Sign up for **Azure for Students** using your UCI email address. Verify academic status through Microsoft's verification process.
- **Microsoft Learn for Students:**
  - Visit **Microsoft Learn**. Navigate to the **Students section**. Engage in tutorials, courses, and modules tailored for students.
- **Azure Dev Tools for Teaching:**
  - Access free software, developer tools, and learning resources via **Azure Dev Tools for Teaching**.
- **Cognitive Services:**
  - Get started with **Cognitive Services** on Azure. Experiment with AI services like vision, speech, and language processing.
- **Azure Machine Learning:**
  - Explore **Azure Machine Learning**. Build, train, and deploy machine learning models using Azure's integrated tools.
- **Visual Studio:**
  - Download **Visual Studio Community Edition**, a free version for students. Access built-in tools and libraries for software development and AI integration.
- **GitHub Student Developer Pack:**
  - Register for the **GitHub Student Developer Pack**. Benefit from Azure credits, development tools, and other Microsoft offerings.
- **Microsoft AI School:**
  - Dive into **Microsoft AI School**. Access AI-focused tutorials, projects, and challenges.
- **Microsoft Bot Framework:**
  - Engage with **Bot Framework's official website**. Learn to create and integrate AI-powered chatbots.
- **Microsoft Research for Students:**
  - Visit **Microsoft Research's website**. Access datasets, tools, and AI research projects suitable for academic pursuits.

