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UISA

# AI Startup Sprint & Innovation Program

**by Harvard Women in Computer Science**

## First in Oman.

*For Women. By Women.*

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# Program Details

**PROGRAM DATES**

25 - 27 March 2026

**IN PERSON PROGRAM**

United International Schools
Al Khoud

**PROGRAM FEE**

Early Bird Fee: OMR 155
Regular Fee: OMR 175

**ELIGIBILITY**

Ages 12 - 19

**DURATION**

3 days

**CERTIFICATION**

Students receive a
**Certificate of Participation from Harvard Women in Computer Science**

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**More more information, please Contact the UISA Student Academy team +968 9388 3779**

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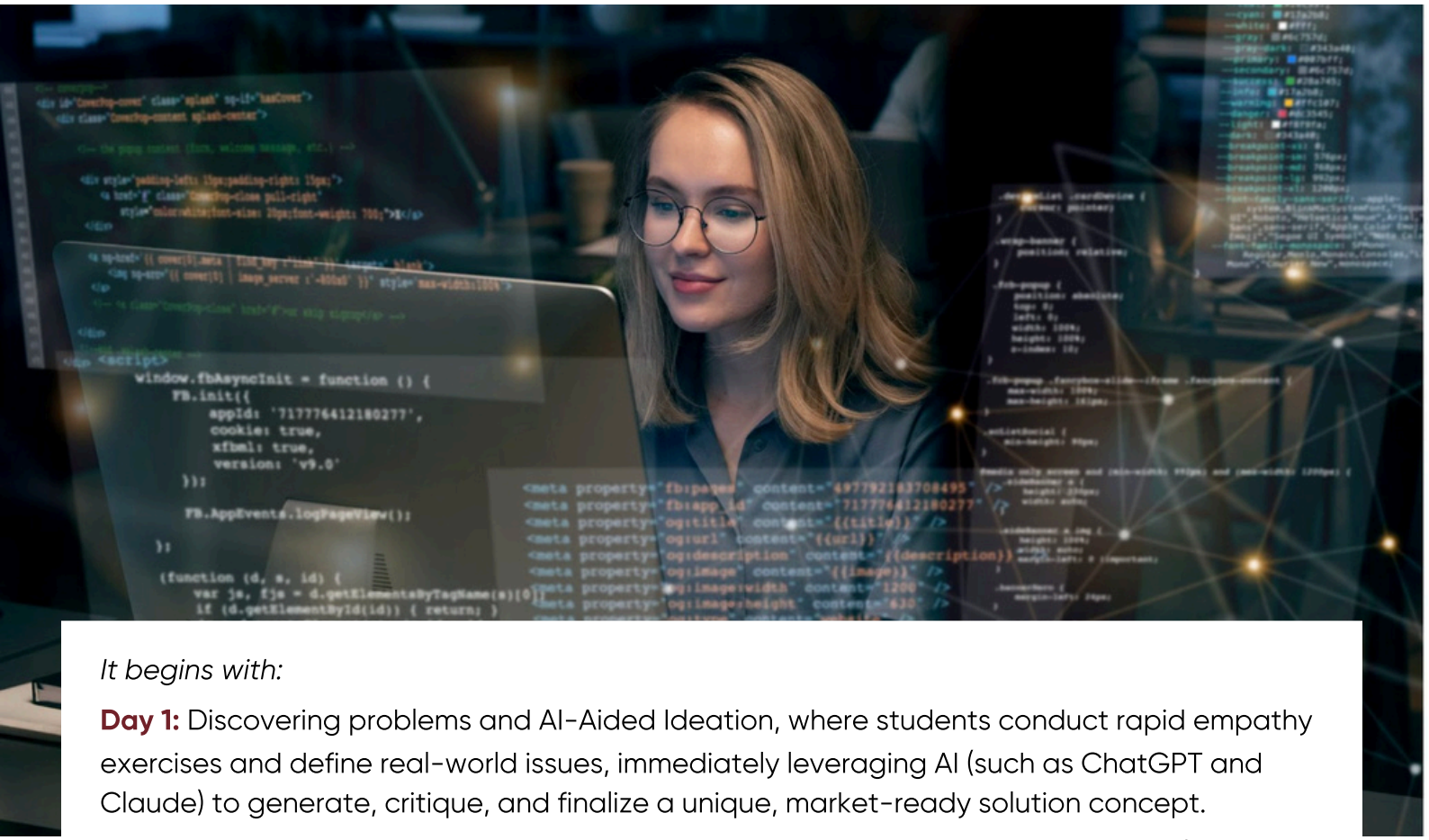
# About the Program

This**3-day Curriculum**outlines theAIStartup Project,a rapid-paced, intensive boot camp designed to guide participants throughthe entireproduct development lifecycle in under a week. The program seamlessly integrates the principles of design thinking with the practical application of Generative AI tools to launch a viable startup concept.



*It begins with:*

**Day 1:** Discovering problems and AI-Aided Ideation, where students conduct rapid empathy exercises and define real-world issues, immediately leveraging AI (such as ChatGPT and Claude) to generate, critique, and finalize a unique, market-ready solution concept.

**Day 2:** Rapid Prototyping and Initial Feedback shifts focus to using AI-aided tools (Lovable, Figma, Replit) to quickly build an MVP. This is followed by immediate user testing, quick feedback analysis, and the initial development of the professional Pitch narrative.

**Day 3:** Refinement and Demo Day, where teams implement final critical feedback into their prototypes and finalize their 3-minute pitch. Teams then present their final prototypes and pitch to judges for feedback and reflection.

**The curriculum is structured to be both highly technical and career-focused, featuring additional sessions on the AI Tools Harvard students use for productivity and an admissions panel connecting passion projects to college pathways. The entire experience emphasizes practical innovation, teamwork, and the responsible use of modern technology.**


# Key Benefits

### PracticalApplicationof AI Tools

Students gain hands-on proficiencywith cutting-edge Generative AI tools (like ChatGPT, Claude, and specialized prototyping tools) for tasks beyond simple inquiry, such as ideation, critique, and design.

### Accelerated Entrepreneurial Skills

Thecurriculumcondensestheentire startup lifecycle - from empathy and problem discovery to prototyping and pitching - into three days, rapidly developing foundational business and innovation skills.

### Enhanced Portfolio and Resume Content

Students create atangibleMinimum Viable Product (MVP) and a polished pitch deck, providing concrete evidence of their technical, design, and presentation abilities for college admissions and internships.

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# Key Benefits

### Interdisciplinary Skill Integration

The programnaturallyforces the blending of technical skills (AI, prototyping) with soft skills (user interviewing, teamwork, public speaking, critical thinking), mirroring real-world career demands.

### Structured Design Thinking Experience

Participants learnand apply theglobally recognized design thinking methodology (empathy \rightarrow define \rightarrow ideate \rightarrow prototype \rightarrow test), essential for creative problem-solving in any field.

### Direct Mentorship and Career Guidance

Through check-ins andthe AdmissionsPanel, students receive personalized feedback from experienced mentors and gain valuable insight into connecting passion projects to college pathways and future careers.

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# Student Outcomes

### Deliver a Validated Startup Concept

Students willidentifyareal problem, validate it through interviews and research, and turn their findings into a clear startup concept brief.

### Produce a Professional Pitch Deck

Teamswill delivera compelling 3-minute pitch with slides, clearly explaining the problem, solution, market, and why it matters.

### Master Generative AI for Business

Students will learn to write effective prompts to use AI tools for competitive analysis, idea generation, and marketing content.

### Apply Design Thinking Methodologies

Participantswill completethe full design thinking cycle, giving them a framework for future innovation.

### Build and Present a Working Prototype

Each team willbuilda functional MVP using AI-assisted prototyping tools and demonstrate its core features.

### Formulate a College/Career Action Plan

Students willlearn tolinktheir project to college applications and clearly express how their skills support future tech goals.

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# Program Schedule

## Day 1: Ideation and Problem Validation

***Goal:*** *Identify real-world problems and learn how to validate startup ideas.*

### Morning

**1. Introduction to Startups and AI**

- Overview of what makes startups successful
- Examples of tech startups that use AI (Duolingo, Notion, Runway, etc.)
- Discussion: “What problems can AI help solve?”

**2. Intro to Prompt Engineering**

- Learn how to write effective AI prompts
- Practice with ChatGPT and Claude to brainstorm startup ideas
- Refinement exercise: improving vague prompts into strong ones

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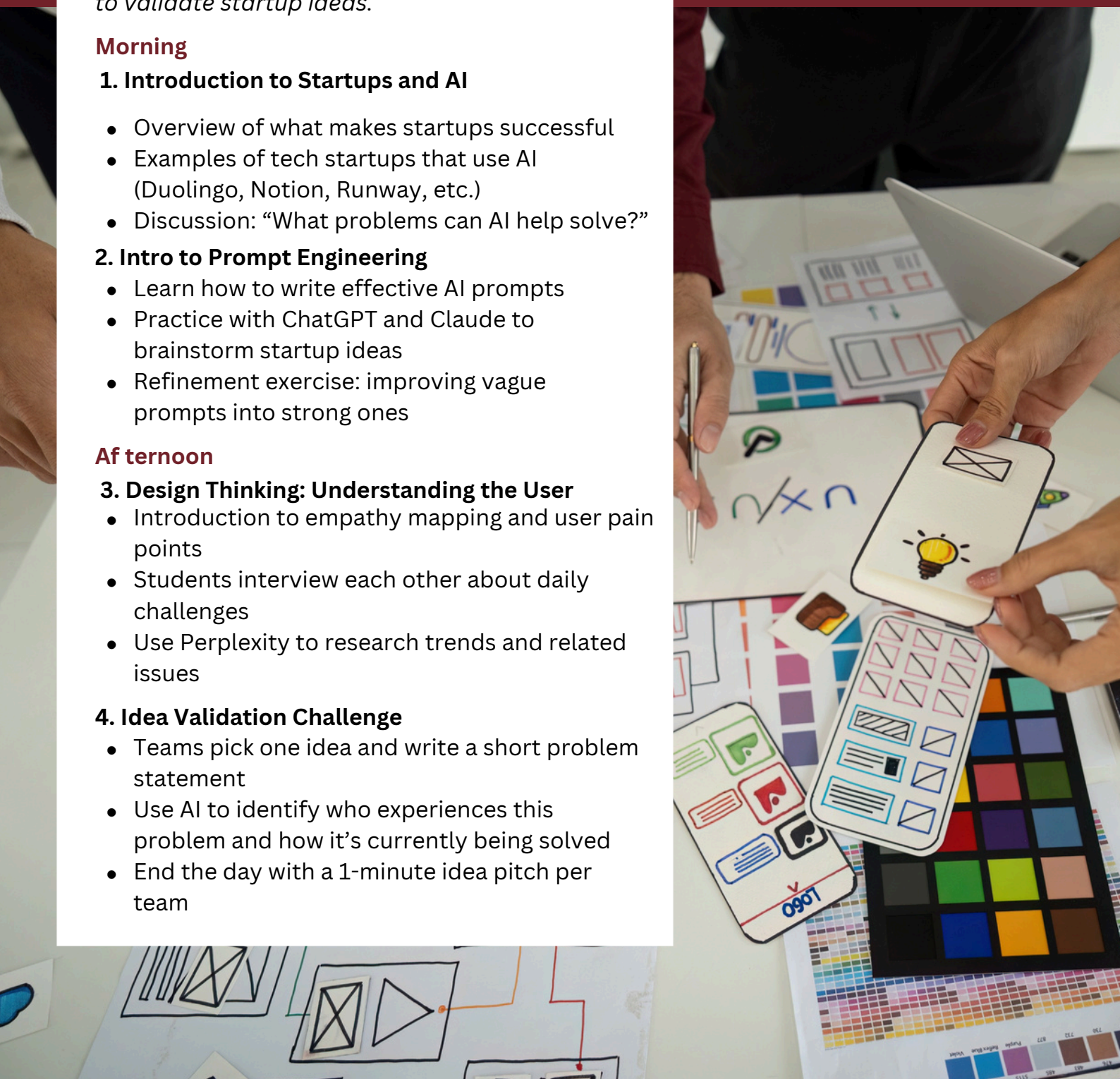
**3. Design Thinking: Understanding the User**

- Introduction to empathy mapping and user pain points
- Students interview each other about daily challenges
- Use Perplexity to research trends and related issues

**4. Idea Validation Challenge**

- Teams pick one idea and write a short problem statement
- Use AI to identify who experiences this problem and how it’s currently being solved
- End the day with a 1-minute idea pitch per team



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# Program Schedule

## Day 2: Prototyping and AI Tools

***Goal:*** *Turn validated ideas into functional prototypes.*

### Morning

**1. Rapid Prototyping Workshop**

- Overview of low-code and no-code tools (Lovable, Replit, Figma, Glide)
- Teams start building their MVPs using AI assistance
- Learn how to prompt for UI generation and logic help

**2. Advanced Prompting for Building**

- Chain prompts to create workflows (example: generate UI, data model, and copy)
- Use AI to create sample data and test flows

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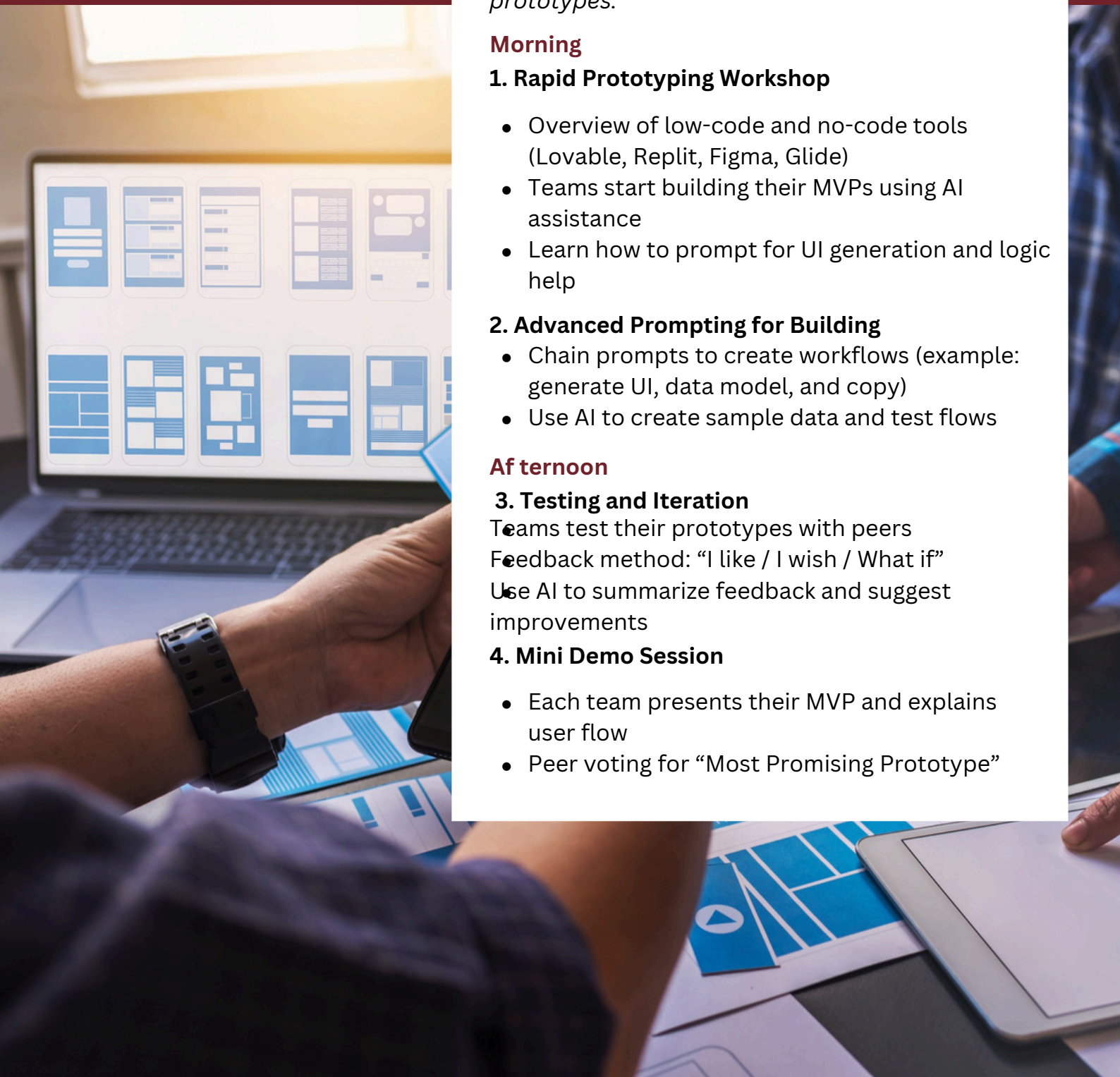
**3. Testing and Iteration**

- Teams test their prototypes with peers
- Feedback method: “I like / I wish / What if”
- Use AI to summarize feedback and suggest improvements

**4. Mini Demo Session**

- Each team presents their MVP and explains user flow
- Peer voting for “Most Promising Prototype”



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# Program Schedule

## Day 3: Launch and Pitch

***Goal:*** *Refine, validate, and present a real AI startup concept.*

### Morning

**1. Storytelling for Startups**

- Learn the structure: problem → solution → impact
- Create pitch outlines using ChatGPT or Claude
- Practice elevator pitches

**2. Business Model Basics**

- Introduction to target users, revenue streams, and scaling
- Use AI to brainstorm monetization strategies and user acquisition

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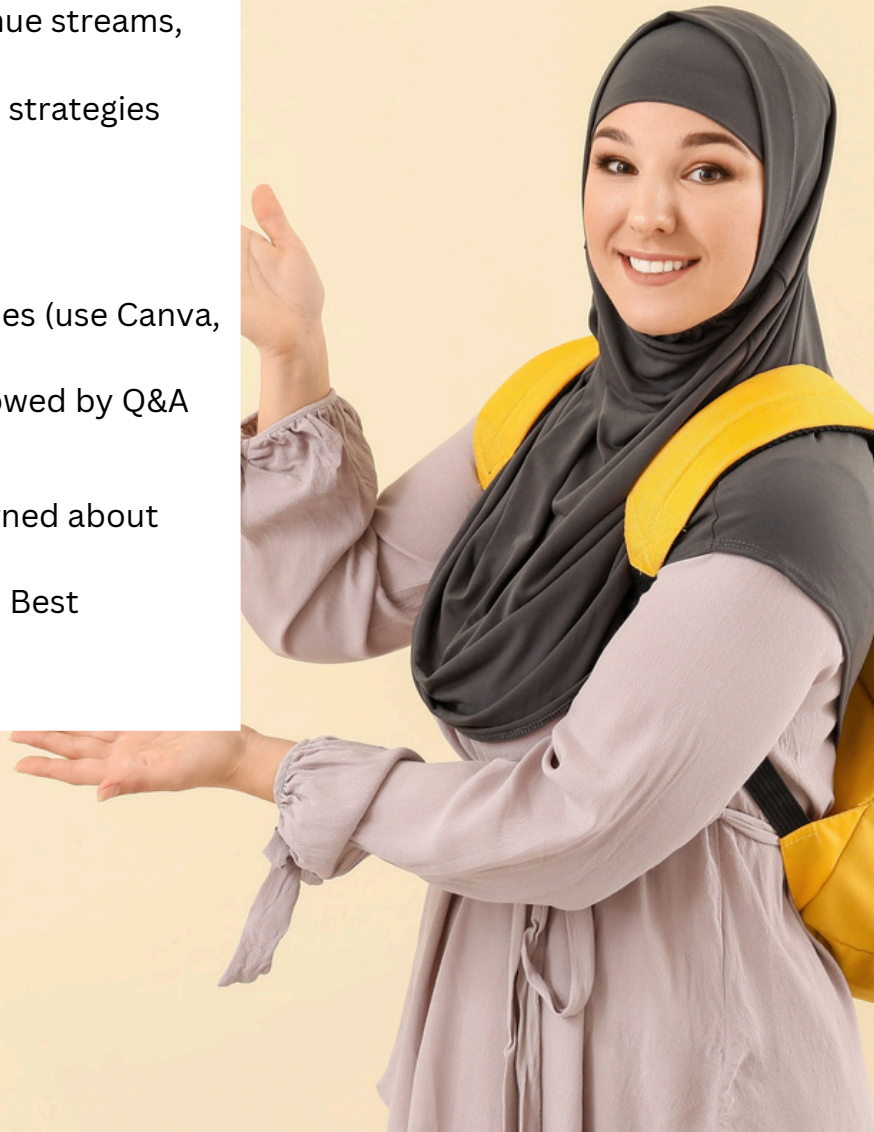
**3. Pitch Preparation and Demo Day**

- Teams finalize prototypes and slides (use Canva, Gamma, or Google Slides)
- 3-minute pitch presentations followed by Q&A

**4. Reflection and Awards**

- Students reflect on what they learned about AI as a creative tool
- Optional awards: Most Innovative, Best Prototype, Best Pitch



# About the Organization

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**Harvard Undergraduate Women in Computer Science (WiCS)** isthelargest STEM affinity groupat Harvard, bringingtogether a community of over 500 members who are passionate about technology, creativity, and impact.

We partner with leading organizations, including OpenAI, Anthropic (the team behind Claude), Google, and many more, to offer workshops, mentorship, and hands-on career opportunities. Our members have gone on to start their own ventures, build innovative products, and work at some of the most influential tech companies in the world.

One of WiCS's most significant initiatives is the annual WECode Conference, the largest student-run women-in-tech conference in the country. Each year, WECode brings together thousands of attendees, top speakers, and industry leaders to celebrate community, empowerment, and the future of tech.

At its core, WiCS is dedicated to mentorship and supporting the next generation of innovators. We're here to empower you to grow, explore, and use technology to create meaningful change in the world.

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# Meet your Mentors

**RICHEAL SAKA**
Co-President

Richael is a junior at Harvard studying Applied Mathematics and Computer Science, with a secondary in Education. She focuses on using technology to solve real-world problems, most notably through Sana, a project where she applies machine learning and AI to identify breast cancer risk hotspots in Mexico.
When she's not working on research, you can usually find her at the Harvard Innovation Labs developing new startup ideas or at the Harvard Product Labs mentoring students on how or at the Harvard Product Labs mentoring students and working with companies to design and build products that can reach and empower millions.

**MIRA YU**
Co-President

Mira is a leader in advancing community, professional development, and gender equity for women in tech at Harvard. She is concentrating in Computer Science with a secondary in Government and conducts research at the Kempner Institute, where she works on multi-agent systems and model communication. With experience in distributed systems and application development, she aims to combine technical innovation and social impact in her work.

**SOPHIE PEARO**
Academics Director

Sophie is the Academics Director for WiCS, leading initiatives that support ac a de m ic success within the comm
pursuing a Jo in t C o n centration in Computer Scie
Statistics with a secondary in Economics at Harvard University. Her interests include Ethical AI, Algorithms, and Machine Learning, and she uses her expertise to help peers navigate Harvard's technical curriculum.

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