

TReND-CaMinA Code of Conduct (CoC)

Contents:

1. Why does CoC exist, who is responsible and where does it apply → [Purpose and responsibilities](#)
2. What is our CoC → [Code of Conduct](#)
3. How can I report violations/complaints related with CoC → [Report complaints](#)

Our CoC is adapted from sources including [Neuromatch](#), [Imbizo](#) and [NeurIPS](#).

Purpose and Responsibilities

Why does CoC exist?

In TReND-CaMinA we strive for an environment where everyone is welcomed, valued and supported. Abiding to our Code of Conduct (CoC) ensures such an environment.

Who is responsible?

Everyone who is involved in TReND-CaMinA including students, organizers, teaching assistants, course faculty and sponsors are expected to adhere to this CoC.

Where does CoC apply?

Our CoC applies in all the environments (physical and virtual) where TReND-CaMinA related communication takes place:

- Throughout the course in all the course related environments (e.g. dormitories, course classrooms)
- Official communication channels (including social media and messaging apps e.g. Twitter, Slack)

Code of Conduct

Respect

TReND-CaMinA brings together a diverse group of students and faculty. As such, we encourage people to be tolerant, polite, and mindful during interactions with each other.

Inclusivity

We welcome people regardless of their gender, culture, ethnicity, sex, age, national origin, social and economic class, educational level, color, belief, religion, and mental and physical ability, etc. This list, while not exhaustive, is a good indicator of the diversity we encourage.

Don't harass

We strongly discourage all forms of harassment at TReND-CaMinA. Always conduct yourself in a professional manner and avoid any actions that may disrupt the full participation of other persons at the course. Harassment can take several forms. Below is a non-exhaustive list of things to avoid.

- Offensive comments based on individual differences
- Threats of violence
- Sexual harassment
 - Inappropriate touching
 - Sharing explicit material (digitally or otherwise)
 - Stalking
 - Derogatory-name calling, etc
- Discriminatory jokes and language
 - Sexism, racism, ethnocentrism, xenophobia
- Written or verbal abuse

As a general rule of thumb, when someone requests that you stop something, stop!

Use [the complaint form](#) to report any incident of harassment.

Professionalism and respect for the environment

We encourage students to act in a professional manner and all actions and interactions. This includes being orderly, courteous, and considerate of others at all times and places.

- Avoid disorderly, boisterous, or disruptive behavior that could disturb others.
- Dispose of all trash and waste materials in designated bins. Help maintain a clean and tidy learning environment. Ensure that you leave all spaces as clean as or cleaner than you found them.
- Avoid causing damage to property and immediately report all accidental damage to course staff so that it can be addressed appropriately.

Participation

Students were chosen from a large pool of applicants to participate in the TReND-CaMinA program. As such, we ask that students make the most of this opportunity. As indicated in the acceptance/agreement letter:

- Students are expected to be in class 100% of the time from 09:00 to 19:00 each day. There is no part-time participation.
- We require strong involvement, motivation and drive to learn. We expect students to complete assigned tasks in a timely manner and to seek help as soon as is needed.
- Failure to attend the whole course without valid reason will result in blacklisting from future TReND in Africa programming. Additionally, you will be required to reimburse us for any expenses incurred on your behalf (e.g pre-purchased plane tickets, accommodation, etc)

Academic Honesty and Integrity

While TReND-CaMinA is not a degree-granting institution, we expect that you act with academic integrity and honesty as you would in an academic environment. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Claiming another person's work as your own
- Cheating

Use of technology

We understand that there may be knowledge gaps for students in the program (e.g. Medical students with no programming language), as such we strongly encourage that you seek assistance from TAs and course faculty where necessary. The use of external resources (such as Generative AI and online tools) should be properly documented and reported.

Collaboration and teamwork

We encourage collaboration with fellow students as much as possible. However, we ask that you be respectful of other students' time and effort. We expect all students to contribute substantially to group tasks and the course as a whole.

Use and Distribution of Course Materials

We at TReND-CaMinA strongly believe in open science and transparency in scientific research and learning. As such, all the educational content from the program is open source and we encourage students to share their knowledge and materials obtained after participating in the program.

As a reminder of the program agreement, **students are required to prepare and give a presentation on what they learnt upon return to their home institution**. This can be in the form of a lecture, workshop, study group, etc.

Complaint Reporting and Action

We employ all participants to use [this form](#) to promptly report all complaints. All complaints brought to our attention will be taken seriously and investigated in a timely manner. There will be no retaliation against any Participant who brings a complaint or submits an incident report in good faith or who honestly assists in investigating such a complaint.

We reserve the right to take appropriate action towards any person found in breach of the Code of Conduct. This may include: including: a formal or informal warning to the offender, expulsion from the program with a requirement to reimburse all expenses, barring from participation in future TReND in Africa programming, reporting the incident to the offender's local institution, or reporting the incident to local authorities or law enforcement. If action is taken, an appeals process will be made available.

Agreement

By participating in the TReND Computational Neuroscience and Machine Learning course, you agree to adhere to this code of conduct and contribute to a positive learning environment.