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SAIL Innovation Lab and Sahara Group Foundation Partner to Upskill the Next Generation of Data Scientists in Lagos

CcHUB Communications

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[Lagos, Nigeria – 5th March 2024] – [SAIL Innovation Lab](#), a community innovation centre managed by Co-creation Hub to create a growth-driven environment in Lagos, today announced a groundbreaking partnership with [Sahara Group Foundation](#), a prominent philanthropic organization committed to development initiatives across Africa. The collaboration will establish the SAIL and Sahara Group Foundation Data Science for Society Programme to offer a unique opportunity for individuals in Nigeria to launch successful careers in the field of data science.

Through this competitive fellowship Programme, SAIL Innovation Lab will provide 60 selected individuals with a comprehensive, six-month data science training programme. Valued at ₦3.3 million per participant, this immersive programme will equip individuals with the necessary skills and knowledge to transition from beginners to entry-level data scientists with industry savvy.

In line with SAIL and Sahara Group Foundation's collective mission, the programme will foster the re-orientation of young people and be a strong fort in empowering them with platforms that allow them to productively compete on a global scale and drive economic prosperity in the Lagos East district. With a proven track record of over 40 successfully placed graduates in the previous cohort ([read their impact stories here](#)), the programme aims to continue this success by empowering individuals to become data scientists, as well as machine, and AI engineers. The overarching goal is to bridge the talent gap and drive innovation across various sectors in Nigeria.

Commenting on the partnership, Timothy Aluko, Head of Operations, CcHUB and Centre Manager, SAIL:

"We are thrilled to partner with the Sahara Group Foundation to launch this impactful initiative. By combining our expertise in data science education with Sahara Group Foundation's dedication to empowering individuals, we aim to bridge the talent gap in the data science industry and equip the next generation with the skills needed to thrive in this critical field."

Ejiro Gray, Director, Governance and Sustainability, Sahara Group Foundation, added:

"At Sahara Group, we have an unwavering commitment to building sustainable societies. Through our vehicle for social responsibility—the Sahara Group Foundation, and its projects, we have consistently provided platforms to give wings to the aspirations of youths in Africa. This partnership is aligned with our goal of improving lives as investing in the education and development of young talent, especially in the areas of data and technology is crucial for Africa's future."

Deji Abisola, Chief Impact Consultant at SAIL Empowerment Foundation, added:

"I am thrilled to announce our collaboration with Sahara Group Foundation on the Data Science for Society training program. This initiative marks a significant leap in our commitment to empowering individuals with cutting-edge skills in the increasingly vital field of data science. Over the past two years, our efforts have resulted in the training of over 4,667 participants across various programs, reflecting our unwavering dedication to talent development and societal advancement."

The 'Data Science for Society' program is particularly close to our hearts, designed to address the growing demand for skilled data scientists who can drive societal progress through innovative solutions. Recognizing the importance of this mission, the Sahara Group Foundation has generously committed to awarding full scholarships to the top 30 applicants of this highly competitive program. This initiative not only underscores our shared vision of

democratizing access to critical education but also reinforces our belief in the transformative power of data science for social good.

Our last cohort achieved an impressive milestone of 100% job placement, a testament to the quality of our training and the dedication of our participants. With the support of Sahara Group Foundation, we are poised to replicate and indeed surpass this achievement, further solidifying our impact on the workforce and communities at large.

Together, we are not just providing education; we are shaping the future of data science, empowering individuals to make meaningful contributions to society, and fostering a generation of leaders equipped to tackle the challenges of tomorrow. We look forward to the remarkable innovations and societal contributions that will emerge from this year's cohort of scholars."

The DSF Programme will cover:

- In-depth training:** Participants will gain comprehensive knowledge and practical skills in key data science areas, including programming, statistics, machine learning, and data visualization.
- Mentorship:** Dedicated mentors from the data science industry will provide guidance and support throughout the Programme.
- Industry exposure:** The Programme will include real-world projects and workshops, allowing participants to apply their learning to practical scenarios.
- Job placement assistance:** Upon successfully completing the Programme, SAIL Innovation Lab will assist participants in securing entry-level data science positions.

Who should apply?

General Application Requirements:

- Individuals with an interest in data science and a desire to apply their skills to social good.
- People from or living in Lagos State.
- Individuals within the age range of 18-35.

Applications for the SAIL and Sahara Group Foundation Data Science Fellowship Programme are open, and close on March 15th, 2024.

To learn more about the Programme and application process, please visit [sailab.ng](#)

About SAIL Innovation Lab:

SAIL Innovation Lab, a subsidiary of CcHUB, is dedicated to providing cutting-edge tech education and training Programme to drive economic prosperity in Nigeria. Through innovative solutions and partnerships, SAIL is committed to shaping the future of technology in Africa.

About Sahara Group Foundation:

Sahara Group Foundation is the personal and corporate social sustainability vehicle for leading energy and infrastructure conglomerate, Sahara Group. The foundation focuses on helping to increase access to energy and promote sustainable environments, with the goal of improving lives and livelihoods through various youth-focused social impact initiatives across the continent of Africa and beyond.

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