

NEWTON Global Leaders Academy 2026

Schedule

Time	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Friday	Sat
	Arrivals and accommodation check in						
9-1030		Seminar 1	Seminar 5	Seminar 7	Seminar 11	Final Project Workshop	Reflection / Certificates
1030-1045		Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	
1045-1215		Seminar 2	Seminar 6	Seminar 8	Seminar 12	Final Project Workshop	Goodbye Activities
1215-1315		Lunch	Lunch**	Lunch	Lunch**	Lunch	
1315-1445		Seminar 3	Excursion**	Seminar 9	Excursion**	Final Project Presentations	
1445-1500		Coffee Break		Coffee Break			
1500-1615		Seminar 4		Seminar 10			
1830-2000	Evening Program*	Evening Program***		Evening Program***		Disco / Pub	

* At NU (welcome, get to know you, games, intro) ** We leave NU shortly after 1215 for the day (Zoo / Prague Castle / Etc.) ***
Something cultural in the city (or a scavenger hunt, for example.) — activities will be different for week A and B **** Coffee
breaks will be included between seminars at regular intervals throughout the day

Week A – Advanced Critical Thinking and Leadership

Focus: Empower students to think analytically, communicate persuasively, and lead ethically — while developing the self-management skills needed to stay stable, confident, and high-performing.

Week B – Sustainable Management and AI

Focus: Explore how sustainability and AI shape the future of business — while helping students stay grounded, resilient, and effective in a fast-changing digital world.

Seminars 1–12 Week A

1. **Critical Thinking 2.0: How Smart People Avoid Stupid Mistakes**
Spot flawed logic, cut through noise, and think with clarity under pressure.
2. **Cognitive Bias Detox**
Learn the mental traps that sabotage decisions — and how to override them.
3. **Decision-Making Under Uncertainty**
Tools for staying rational when information is incomplete or conflicting.
4. **Leadership Styles That Actually Work (Part 1)**
Transformational, transactional, and servant leadership for real workplaces.
5. **Adaptive Leadership for Real Humans (Part 2)**
Situational and adaptive leadership + self-assessment.
6. **Strategic Problem Solving (Part 1)**
SWOT, root-cause analysis, and effective problem framing.
7. **Strategic Problem Solving (Part 2)**
Group case-based application under real-world constraints.
8. **Ethical Leadership in a Messy World**
Values, integrity, dilemmas, and responsible decision-making.
9. **Intercultural Leadership & Communication**
Cultural intelligence, managing diverse teams, and conflict resolution.
10. **Persuasion, Influence & Executive Communication**
Argument structure, influence strategies, and speaking with authority.
11. **Systems Thinking**
Feedback loops, unintended consequences, and organizational dynamics.
12. **Negotiation & Stakeholder Strategy**
BATNA, power dynamics, reading the room, and win-win outcomes.

Seminars 1–12 Week B

1. **Sustainability for Leaders: What Actually Matters**
A modern, actionable approach to the Triple Bottom Line.
2. **CSR Without the Greenwashing**
Authentic stakeholder impact, reputation, and ethical branding.
3. **The Real Environmental Impact of Business**
Circular economy, resource flows, and carbon footprints explained clearly.
4. **AI Fundamentals for Managers**
What AI is, what it isn't, and how it creates real business value.
5. **Ethics in the Age of AI**
Bias, fairness, privacy, transparency, and responsible tech decisions.
6. **AI for Sustainable Innovation**
Smart cities, green tech, and sustainable supply chains.
7. **Data-Driven Decision Making Without Losing the Human**
Dashboards, KPIs, and avoiding analysis paralysis.
8. **Sustainable Strategy & Business Models**
B Corps, impact investing, and long-term value creation.
9. **Global Trends & Policy Frameworks**
UN SDGs, EU Green Deal, and the evolving regulatory landscape.
10. **Capstone Design Lab (Part 1)**
Team ideation: use AI to meet a sustainability goal.
11. **Capstone Design Lab (Part 2)**
Prototyping, solution refinement, and impact narrative building.
12. **Final Pitch Rehearsal & Peer Feedback**
Realistic practice, critique, and presentation mastery.

Integrated Personal Sustainability Track

- Sustainable personal productivity and energy management
- Digital wellbeing and cognitive immunity
- Emotional regulation in response to global or technological anxiety
- Identity and purpose in a tech-driven world
- A personal sustainability plan for healthier, future-proof living

Week A – Advanced Critical Thinking and Leadership

Focus: Empower students to think analytically, communicate persuasively, and lead ethically — while developing the self-management skills needed to stay stable, confident, and high-performing.

Week B – Sustainable Management and AI

Focus: Explore how sustainability and AI shape the future of business — while helping students stay grounded, resilient, and effective in a fast-changing digital world.

Week A — Advanced Critical Thinking and Leadership

Focus: Learn how to think clearly, communicate effectively, lead ethically, and stay psychologically stable in high-pressure modern environments.

1. Critical Thinking 2.0: How Smart People Avoid Stupid Mistakes

What this seminar is about

Intelligence alone does not protect people from manipulation, groupthink, overconfidence, or bad decisions. This seminar explores how critical thinking actually works in real life — especially in environments filled with pressure, emotion, misinformation, and social influence.

You will learn how to:

- identify weak arguments and manipulative rhetoric
- separate confidence from competence
- recognize emotional reasoning disguised as logic
- challenge ideas without becoming confrontational
- think more independently in high-noise environments

Real-world themes:

Media manipulation, online discourse, politics, AI-generated misinformation, workplace decision-making, social pressure.

2. Cognitive Bias Detox

What this seminar is about

Your brain is powerful — but it is not objective. Human thinking is filled with shortcuts and hidden biases that affect decisions, relationships, leadership, and even self-image. This seminar helps students recognize these patterns and build better mental habits.

You will learn how to:

- recognize common cognitive biases in yourself and others

- understand why intelligent people still make irrational decisions
- slow down emotionally driven thinking
- improve judgment under stress
- avoid predictable decision-making traps

Real-world themes:

Confirmation bias, echo chambers, stereotypes, social media algorithms, workplace miscommunication.

3. Decision-Making Under Uncertainty

What this seminar is about

Modern leaders rarely have perfect information. This seminar focuses on staying functional and rational when facing uncertainty, ambiguity, incomplete data, and conflicting opinions.

You will learn how to:

- make decisions without having all the answers
- prioritize information effectively
- manage uncertainty without panic
- distinguish between risk and chaos
- stay adaptable when situations change quickly

Real-world themes:

Business strategy, crisis management, AI disruption, entrepreneurship, personal decision-making.

4. Leadership Styles That Actually Work (Part 1)

What this seminar is about

Leadership is not about dominance, charisma, or motivational quotes. Different situations require different leadership approaches. This seminar introduces major leadership models and examines when they succeed — and when they fail.

You will learn how to:

- understand major leadership styles and their strengths
- recognize ineffective leadership behaviors
- adapt leadership approaches to different teams
- motivate people without manipulation
- build trust and credibility as a leader

Real-world themes:

Corporate leadership, team dynamics, burnout culture, toxic management, modern workplaces.

5. Adaptive Leadership for Real Humans (Part 2)

What this seminar is about

People are not robots. Teams consist of individuals with different personalities, stress levels, motivations, and communication styles. This seminar explores adaptive leadership and emotional intelligence in realistic human environments.

You will learn how to:

- adapt leadership styles to different personalities and situations
- identify communication breakdowns early
- respond effectively to stress and conflict
- improve self-awareness as a leader
- lead without becoming emotionally reactive

Real-world themes:

Remote teams, intercultural workplaces, neurodiversity, conflict management, self-leadership.

6. Strategic Problem Solving (Part 1)

What this seminar is about

Many people solve symptoms instead of actual problems. This seminar introduces practical tools for analyzing complex situations and developing smarter, more strategic responses.

You will learn how to:

- break down complex problems systematically
- identify root causes instead of surface issues
- use frameworks like SWOT and root-cause analysis
- improve structured thinking
- avoid reactive decision-making

Real-world themes:

Business failures, organizational dysfunction, strategic planning, innovation challenges.

7. Strategic Problem Solving (Part 2)

What this seminar is about

This is the practical application seminar. Students work through realistic scenarios involving pressure, limited information, conflicting priorities, and team-based decision-making.

You will learn how to:

- collaborate under pressure
- defend ideas using logic and evidence
- make decisions with limited time and information
- evaluate trade-offs realistically
- improve strategic communication within teams

Real-world themes:

Crisis scenarios, business simulations, negotiation pressure, leadership dilemmas.

8. Ethical Leadership in a Messy World

What this seminar is about

Ethics becomes complicated when pressure, incentives, power, and ambition are involved. This seminar explores ethical leadership in situations where the “right” answer is not always obvious.

You will learn how to:

- recognize ethical dilemmas in leadership and business
- evaluate consequences beyond short-term profit
- identify rationalizations used to justify poor behavior
- balance performance with integrity
- make more responsible decisions under pressure

Real-world themes:

Corporate scandals, AI ethics, whistleblowing, corruption, organizational culture.

9. Intercultural Leadership & Communication

What this seminar is about

Global workplaces require more than just speaking English well. This seminar explores how culture influences communication, leadership expectations, teamwork, and conflict.

You will learn how to:

- communicate more effectively across cultures
- recognize hidden cultural assumptions
- reduce misunderstandings in diverse teams
- adapt communication styles internationally

- manage disagreement professionally

Real-world themes:

International business, study abroad environments, multicultural teams, global collaboration.

10. Persuasion, Influence & Executive Communication

What this seminar is about

Strong communicators do not simply “talk well.” They structure ideas clearly, understand psychology, and communicate with confidence under pressure. This seminar focuses on persuasive communication without manipulation.

You will learn how to:

- structure convincing arguments
- speak with more clarity and authority
- communicate ideas under pressure
- improve public speaking confidence
- recognize influence tactics used by others

Real-world themes:

Presentations, interviews, leadership communication, negotiations, media influence.

11. Systems Thinking

What this seminar is about

Many problems are connected to larger systems that people fail to notice. This seminar introduces systems thinking — the ability to recognize patterns, unintended consequences, feedback loops, and hidden relationships.

You will learn how to:

- see connections between seemingly separate problems
- understand unintended consequences
- think beyond short-term reactions
- analyze organizations as systems
- improve long-term strategic thinking

Real-world themes:

Economics, sustainability, organizations, politics, AI systems, social dynamics.

12. Negotiation & Stakeholder Strategy

What this seminar is about

Negotiation is not just about “winning.” It is about understanding incentives, personalities, leverage, relationships, and long-term outcomes. This seminar introduces practical negotiation strategies used in business and leadership.

You will learn how to:

- negotiate more confidently and strategically
- recognize power dynamics in conversations
- prepare effectively for difficult discussions
- improve active listening and emotional control
- create stronger win-win outcomes

Real-world themes:

Business negotiations, salary discussions, leadership conflicts, stakeholder management, diplomacy.

Week B — Sustainable Management and AI

Focus: Explore how sustainability, technology, and AI are reshaping business and society — while developing the critical thinking, adaptability, and personal resilience needed to function effectively in a rapidly changing world.

1. Sustainability for Leaders: What Actually Matters

What this seminar is about

Sustainability is no longer just a branding exercise. Businesses are increasingly expected to balance profit, environmental responsibility, and social impact. This seminar introduces sustainability in a practical, modern, and realistic way.

You will learn how to:

- understand the core principles of sustainable management
- recognize the difference between meaningful sustainability and PR messaging
- evaluate business decisions using long-term thinking
- identify sustainability challenges facing modern organizations
- think beyond short-term profit maximization

Real-world themes:

Climate change, corporate responsibility, ethical business, resource management, future-focused leadership.

2. CSR Without the Greenwashing

What this seminar is about

Many companies want to appear ethical, sustainable, and socially responsible — but not all of them are authentic. This seminar explores Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), stakeholder trust, and how organizations build or destroy credibility.

You will learn how to:

- recognize authentic vs performative CSR strategies
- analyze reputation and trust in modern business
- understand stakeholder expectations

- identify greenwashing and misleading messaging
- evaluate ethical branding critically

Real-world themes:

Corporate scandals, sustainability marketing, social media backlash, brand reputation, consumer trust.

3. The Real Environmental Impact of Business

What this seminar is about

Modern economies depend on complex systems of production, transportation, energy, and consumption. This seminar explores how businesses affect the environment — and how sustainable systems can be designed more intelligently.

You will learn how to:

- understand resource flows and environmental systems
- analyze business impact beyond simple slogans
- explain concepts like circular economy and carbon footprint
- identify hidden environmental costs
- think more systemically about sustainability

Real-world themes:

Fast fashion, supply chains, waste systems, renewable energy, circular economy models.

4. AI Fundamentals for Managers

What this seminar is about

Artificial Intelligence is transforming industries, workplaces, education, and communication. This seminar explains what AI actually is, where it creates value, and where people dramatically misunderstand it.

You will learn how to:

- understand the basic logic behind modern AI systems
- distinguish between hype and realistic AI capabilities
- identify practical business applications of AI
- recognize the limitations and risks of AI tools
- think critically about technological change

Real-world themes:

Generative AI, automation, productivity tools, digital transformation, future jobs.

5. Ethics in the Age of AI

What this seminar is about

AI systems increasingly influence hiring, policing, finance, media, education, and healthcare. This seminar explores the ethical challenges surrounding bias, privacy, accountability, and technological power.

You will learn how to:

- identify ethical risks connected to AI systems
- understand algorithmic bias and data problems
- evaluate fairness and transparency in technology
- discuss responsible AI use critically
- recognize the human consequences of automated systems

Real-world themes:

Deepfakes, surveillance, biased algorithms, digital privacy, misinformation, AI governance.

6. AI for Sustainable Innovation

What this seminar is about

AI is not only a disruptive force — it can also help solve complex global problems. This seminar explores how technology and data can support sustainability, efficiency, and smarter decision-making.

You will learn how to:

- understand how AI supports sustainable innovation
- explore smart systems and data-driven optimization
- identify opportunities for greener business solutions
- evaluate technological trade-offs realistically
- connect innovation with long-term sustainability goals

Real-world themes:

Smart cities, energy optimization, sustainable logistics, green technology, predictive systems.

7. Data-Driven Decision Making Without Losing the Human

What this seminar is about

Modern organizations are overwhelmed with data, dashboards, and performance metrics. This seminar focuses on using data intelligently while avoiding analysis paralysis, tunnel vision, and dehumanized decision-making.

You will learn how to:

- interpret data more critically and responsibly
- understand the strengths and limits of KPIs and metrics
- avoid common mistakes in data interpretation
- balance quantitative and human-centered thinking
- make better decisions under information overload

Real-world themes:

Business analytics, productivity culture, algorithmic management, performance tracking, workplace psychology.

8. Sustainable Strategy & Business Models

What this seminar is about

Long-term business success increasingly depends on adaptability, ethics, resilience, and stakeholder trust. This seminar explores sustainable business models that aim to create value beyond immediate profit.

You will learn how to:

- understand modern sustainable business strategies
- evaluate long-term organizational resilience
- analyze alternative business models critically
- connect sustainability with innovation and competitiveness
- think more strategically about future markets

Real-world themes:

B Corps, impact investing, ESG frameworks, social entrepreneurship, future business strategy.

9. Global Trends & Policy Frameworks

What this seminar is about

Governments, international organizations, and global institutions increasingly shape business through sustainability policies and regulations. This seminar explains the major global frameworks influencing the future economy.

You will learn how to:

- understand major global sustainability frameworks
- analyze the business impact of policy changes
- interpret the UN Sustainable Development Goals critically
- recognize emerging regulatory trends
- connect geopolitics with business strategy

Real-world themes:

UN SDGs, EU Green Deal, international regulation, energy policy, global economic transition.

10. Capstone Design Lab (Part 1)

What this seminar is about

Students begin developing a realistic project that combines sustainability, innovation, and AI-based thinking. Teams will work through ideation, planning, and strategic problem framing.

You will learn how to:

- generate and refine innovative project ideas
- collaborate effectively in multidisciplinary teams
- apply sustainability thinking to practical challenges
- use structured brainstorming methods
- translate abstract ideas into workable concepts

Real-world themes:

Innovation labs, startup culture, project development, collaborative problem-solving.

11. Capstone Design Lab (Part 2)

What this seminar is about

Teams continue developing and improving their projects through feedback, testing, and strategic refinement. The focus shifts from ideas to communication, impact, and execution.

You will learn how to:

- improve project design through feedback
- communicate complex ideas more clearly
- evaluate feasibility and long-term impact
- strengthen storytelling and strategic messaging

- prepare solutions for realistic presentation environments

Real-world themes:

Pitch development, product refinement, stakeholder communication, innovation strategy.

12. Final Pitch Rehearsal & Peer Feedback

What this seminar is about

The final seminar prepares students to present ideas clearly, professionally, and persuasively. Students will practice presenting under pressure while learning how to give and receive constructive feedback.

You will learn how to:

- present ideas with greater confidence and clarity
- respond professionally to critique and questioning
- improve persuasive communication under pressure
- structure stronger presentations and arguments
- develop professional feedback skills

Real-world themes:

Public speaking, startup pitches, executive presentations, teamwork, professional communication.