SoBigData Academy Camp 2026:
Upskill yourself with Free & Online Courses

Learn practical data science skills in an interdisciplinary way — no prior experience needed.
The SoBigData Academy Camp is a **free online learning program (Feb–Apr 2026)** designed to make data science accessible to students from **any academic field** (social sciences, law, humanities, business, and more). Start here: https://sobigdata.unipi.it/mod/page/view.php?id=1944&forceview=1

Key dates

- **Student registration: 1 January – 31 January 2026**
- **Camp runs: 1 February – 30 April 2026**
- **Datathon invitation: 1 May 2026** *(selected students from who complete the courses)*

What you'll do during the Camp

- **Complete a selection of free SoBigData Academy courses:**
  - **Workload: ~37 hours total** (flexible, self-paced) ≈ **5 hours/week**
- **Join monthly online events**
  - Teachers and invited experts share real use cases and answer questions
- **Receive a Certificate of Participation**
  - Signed by the **SoBigData Research Infrastructure**
- **Opportunity to participate to the final Datathon challenge (May 2026)**
  - **Best projects**: featured interview + blog post on SoBigData channels
  - **€500 prize** for the winners (in different category)

Who should participate?

This camp is **open to all levels**, especially students **outside traditional computer science/engineering** who want practical skills in: statistics and data analysis, responsible/ethical data use and understanding social and institutional data.

How to participate (students)

1. Go to: https://sobigdata.unipi.it/mod/page/view.php?id=1944&forceview=1
2. **Register by 31 January 2026**
3. Follow the courses during **Feb–Apr 2026**
4. Join the online events (monthly)
5. If you complete the courses, you'll be invited to the **May 2026 Datathon** *(optional)*

Questions? Email us at **info@sobigdata.eu**

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RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE

What you'll learn (courses & competences)

Course	What it covers	Competences Acquired	Possible Applications
Basic Python	Introduction to one of the most used language in data analysis	Basic programming and data manipulation.	Automating small research tasks, reading data files, and manipulating data.
Database	How data is stored and retrieved in structured systems (e.g. university datasets, surveys).	Understanding data organization and SQL basics.	Understanding database structures, populating them with data, and retrieving information.
Data Analysis	How to explore, describe, and interpret data patterns.	Descriptive statistics, analytical reasoning.	Evaluating datasets, comparing, and producing indicators
Data Mining & Machine Learning	How computers can find patterns or predict trends.	Fundamental understanding of algorithms and their ethical implications.	Identifying trends in data and hidden patterns and rules.
Legal & Ethical Aspects of Data Science	How data use interacts with law, privacy, and ethics.	Awareness of GDPR, the AI Act, and data governance.	Evaluating responsible data policies in projects and institutions.
Data Theory & Society	Understanding data's social, cultural, and political dimensions.	Critical thinking about technology and society.	Research on digital democracy, media, and social impacts.
Complex Network Analysis	How relationships between entities can be represented as networks.	Basics of graph thinking and visualization.	Mapping networks such as social, collaborations, or institutional structures.
Business Model Data-Drive Innovation	Using data to create value and innovation in organizations.	Strategic planning, innovation mindset.	Designing business or policy models informed by data.
Data Visualization & Visual Analytics	Presenting information clearly through visuals.	Data visualization and communication skills.	Making an understandable and meaningful graphic representation of the results.