



NEXTGEN CAMPUS
TOWARDS THE NEXT GENERATION OF IT

STUDENT HANDBOOK

Certificate in AI-Driven Cloud Computing and Security

Your guide to the course — general information, how your weeks and months work, how the course ends, and every module in detail

6

MONTHS

496

LEARNING HOURS

6

MODULES

Blended

DELIVERY

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PART A General Information

1 Welcome to NextGen Campus

Welcome to the Certificate in AI-Driven Cloud Computing and Security. This handbook is your guide to the course: how it is organised, how you will learn and be assessed, what is expected of you, and what every module covers. Please read it carefully and keep it with you throughout the course.

NextGen Campus has trained IT professionals since 2013. Our programmes are directly job-targeted: every module combines instructor-led teaching with hands-on labs, real industry tools and practical use of AI, so that you finish ready for work.

2 Course at a Glance

Course	Certificate in AI-Driven Cloud Computing and Security
Duration	Six months (26 weeks; 24 teaching weeks) · 6 months
Delivery	Blended (online and on campus)
Class days and times	Saturday 5.30 – 10.30 PM — online lecture Friday 9.00 AM – 1.00 PM — campus lab, Room A, once every 4 weeks Saturday 8.30 AM – 12.30 PM — campus lab group session, Room B
Total learning hours	496 hours — 96 h lectures · 340 h practical (labs and capstone) · 60 h Student Project Book
Medium	English
Intakes	January–February and June–July each year
Course fee	Rs. 60,000.00
On completion	NextGen Campus Certificate and Academic Transcript
Training institute	NextGen Campus (Pvt) Ltd — TVEC Registered Training Institute P01/1159
Course status	Proposed for TVEC course registration

3 About the Course

The Certificate in AI-Driven Cloud Computing and Security is a six-month, 496-hour non-NVQ course covering six official Microsoft certification exams, progressing learners from Cloud Support Associate to security-aware Cloud Administrator level across Azure, Microsoft 365, AI services and endpoints.

Purpose To train job-ready cloud, endpoint and Microsoft 365 administrators and cloud security engineers who can build, run and secure Microsoft Azure, Windows endpoints, Microsoft 365 and Azure AI workloads, and who are prepared for six official Microsoft certification exams.

Job-level progression Cloud Support Associate (weeks 1–3) → Azure Administrator (weeks 4–9) → Azure Administrator with security and compliance skills (weeks 10–13) → Cloud Administrator with Azure AI skills (weeks 14–16) → Microsoft 365 and AI Services Administrator (weeks 17–20) → Endpoint Administrator (weeks 21–24), exiting as a security-aware Cloud Administrator.

Certification coverage AZ-900, AZ-104, SC-900, AI-901, AB-650 and MD-102, delivered in that order. AI-901 replaced AI-900 (retired 30 June 2026); AB-650 was in beta at the time of writing. Graduates can progress to SC-500 Cloud and AI Security Engineer Associate. Exam details are verified on Microsoft Learn before each intake. Exam fees are not included unless stated by NextGen Campus.

4 What You Will Be Able to Do

By the end of the course you will be able to:

- Explain cloud concepts and describe Azure architecture, services, cost and governance (AZ-900).
- Administer Azure identities, governance, storage, compute, networking, monitoring and backup (AZ-104).
- Explain security, compliance and identity concepts and Microsoft's security and compliance solutions (SC-900).
- Build generative AI, agent, text, speech, vision and extraction solutions in Microsoft Foundry within responsible-AI principles (AI-901).
- Configure, govern and secure Microsoft 365 tenants and workloads, and manage Microsoft 365 Copilot and agents (AB-650).
- Deploy, manage and protect Windows endpoints and applications with Intune and Autopilot (MD-102).
- Apply security controls across Azure, endpoints and Microsoft 365 — identity, Conditional Access, device compliance and Purview data protection.
- Plan, document and defend a secure Microsoft cloud solution professionally.

5 Who the Course Is For and What You Need

Entry requirements Learners need G.C.E. O/L with passes in Mathematics and English, plus basic computer literacy. Networking knowledge is recommended, for example the Certificate in Computer Hardware and Networking or equivalent work experience. Applicants are interviewed to confirm readiness.

Who it is for IT support staff moving into cloud roles, school leavers with IT foundations, graduates and career changers.

What you need a laptop or computer with reliable internet for guided online labs (about 12–13 hours per week). Learners without one may use the campus lab by arrangement.

6 How You Will Learn

Learning activity	Hours	What it involves
Lectures	96 h	Live online lectures with your trainer (5 h a week)
Campus lab practicals	33 h	Hands-on sessions in the campus lab (Room A / Room B), on a rotating schedule
LMS module labs	267 h	Hands-on labs for every module on the NextGen LMS — about 10.8 h a week, done in your own time and monitored by your trainer
Capstone project	40 h	Final project built on campus over dedicated capstone days
Student Project Book	60 h	Your professional record of lab work, reflections and the Management Module
Total	496 h	

About the LMS module labs

Every module has a set of hands-on labs on the NextGen LMS. Complete them each week, between your classes — they are where most of your practical skills are built.

Your trainer monitors lab completion on the LMS and uses it to give you feedback before each module assessment. Completing all LMS labs is required for the award.

Use a laptop or computer with reliable internet. If you do not have one, ask about using the campus lab.

7 Your Weekly Timetable

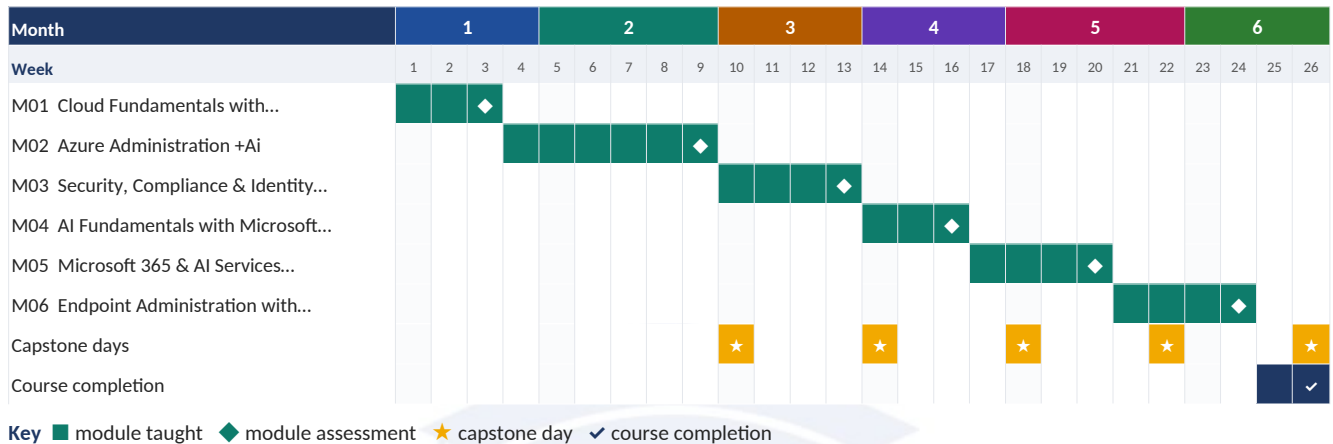
Days	Time	Where	Session
Saturday	5.30 – 10.30 PM	Online	Online live lecture
Friday	9.00 AM – 1.00 PM	Room A	Campus lab practical (your batch attends once every 4 weeks)
Saturday	8.30 AM – 12.30 PM	Room B	Campus lab practical in groups of 20 (your group is notified in advance)

Rotating campus lab dates for your batch are published on the LMS at the start of each month.

Room A and Room B are at the NextGen Campus Head Office, Nugegoda. Regular classes do not run on poya days or public holidays, which are used for capstone days.

8 Your Course Journey

The course runs for 26 weeks over 6 months. The chart shows when each module is taught, when you sit each module assessment (◆), and when the capstone days take place.



Month by month

Month	Weeks	What you study	Milestones
Month 1	Weeks 1–4	M01 Cloud Fundamentals with Microsoft Azure +Ai M02 Azure Administration +Ai	◆ Module assessment: M01
Month 2	Weeks 5–9	M02 Azure Administration +Ai	◆ Module assessment: M02
Month 3	Weeks 10–13	M03 Security, Compliance & Identity Fundamentals +Ai	◆ Module assessment: M03 ★ Capstone day (week 10)
Month 4	Weeks 14–17	M04 AI Fundamentals with Microsoft Foundry M05 Microsoft 365 & AI Services Administration	◆ Module assessment: M04 ★ Capstone day (week 14)
Month 5	Weeks 18–22	M05 Microsoft 365 & AI Services Administration M06 Endpoint Administration with Microsoft Intune +Ai	◆ Module assessment: M05 ★ Capstone day (week 18) ★ Capstone day (week 22)
Month 6	Weeks 23–26	M06 Endpoint Administration with Microsoft Intune +Ai	◆ Module assessment: M06 ★ Capstone day (week 26) Week 25: Capstone Integration and Project Book Completion Week 26: Capstone Panel Defence and Course Completion ✓ Project Book submitted; course completion

A typical week

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
LMS labs ≈ 2 h	LMS labs ≈ 2 h	LMS labs ≈ 2 h	LMS labs ≈ 2 h	Campus lab 9.00 AM – 1.00 PM <i>when your batch is rostered</i> LMS labs ≈ 2 h	Online lecture 5.30 – 10.30 PM <i>online</i> Campus lab 8.30 AM – 12.30 PM <i>when your batch is rostered</i>	LMS labs ≈ 2 h
Student Project Book about 2.5 h a week: update it after each class and lab with your evidence and reflections.						

LMS lab hours are a guide — about 10.8 h a week in total; you can arrange them across the week to suit you.

How the course ends

1 Week 24	2 Week 25	3 Week 26	4 End of course	5 After the course	6 Award
Final module M06 Endpoint Administration with Microsoft Intune +Ai and the final module assessment	Completion week Capstone Integration and Project Book Completion	Capstone day Capstone Panel Defence and Course Completion	Project Book Submit your completed Student Project Book, including the Management Module	Results Marks are confirmed and your final grade is published: Distinction, Merit or Pass	Certificate NextGen Campus Certificate and Academic Transcript issued

If you need a re-sit A learner who fails a module MCQ may re-sit it once within one month. A learner who fails the capstone panel defence may re-present once within three months.

9 Assessment and Grading

Component	How you are assessed	Weight	When
Continuous assessment	MCQ assessment at the end of each core module	40%	End of each module
Practical examination	Capstone project with panel presentation and technical defence	40%	Poya Day 5 (week 26)
Student Project Book	Project book submission, including the Management Module	20%	End of course
Total		100%	

Distinction	Merit	Pass	Fail
70% and above	60% – 69%	50% – 59%	Below 50%

Attendance Minimum 85% attendance at Saturday sessions and all five capstone poya days.

Formative practical checks The weekly practical checks and question types are formative. They are recorded as LMS laboratory completion and give learners feedback before each module MCQ; there is no final written examination.

MCQ assessments Each end-of-module MCQ assessment is completed under supervision on the LMS and covers the module learning outcomes.

Re-sits A learner who fails a module MCQ may re-sit it once within one month. A learner who fails the capstone panel defence may re-present once within three months.

Award requirements — to receive your certificate

You must maintain a minimum attendance of 85%, complete all core-module MCQ assessments and LMS laboratories, submit the Student Project Book and pass the capstone practical examination, achieving an overall mark of at least 50%, to qualify for the certificate.

10 Capstone Project

The capstone brings the full course together in a single physical, end-to-end build delivered over five poya days (9.00 AM – 5.00 PM) at the NextGen Campus Head Office in Nugegoda. Each day is scheduled after the modules it builds on. Students design, deploy, secure and defend a Microsoft cloud environment — Azure, endpoints, Microsoft 365 with Copilot and agents, and an Azure AI component — for a realistic organisation such as a retail company, hospital or bank.

Day	When	Focus	Hours
Poya Day 1	After week 9	Requirements and architecture; Azure foundation: governance, identity, networking, compute, storage, monitoring and backup	8
Poya Day 2	After week 13	Security and compliance: Conditional Access, MFA, Defender for Cloud recommendations, Purview labels and DLP	8
Poya Day 3	After week 17	Azure AI component in Microsoft Foundry with responsible-AI review	8
Poya Day 4	After week 21	Microsoft 365 tenant and workloads; Microsoft 365 Copilot readiness and a governed agent	8
Poya Day 5	Week 26	Endpoint management (Intune, Autopilot, compliance, apps); security review; documentation, panel presentation and technical defence	8
Total	40		

What you will deliver

- Architecture design for Azure, endpoints and Microsoft 365
- Deployed Azure, Intune and Microsoft 365 configuration
- Copilot readiness plan and governed agent
- Azure AI component with responsible-AI assessment
- Security review evidence: secure score, Conditional Access and Purview policies
- Panel presentation and technical defence

11 Student Project Book

The Student Project Book is a guided professional record developed throughout the course. It documents the student's laboratory work, design decisions and project outcomes, and contains the Management Module, which builds the professional and management skills expected of a cloud engineer.

The Project Book contains module-by-module laboratory records and LMS evidence, Management Module activities and reflections, capstone planning and final documentation, and a professional technical portfolio. It is reviewed by the trainer at the end of each module.

Bring your Project Book up to date every week. It is assessed at the end of the course and counts for 20% of your final mark.

12 Your Certificate

When you meet the award requirements you receive the NextGen Campus Certificate — Certificate in AI-Driven Cloud Computing and Security — together with an Academic Transcript showing every module and your final grade (Distinction, Merit or Pass).

Industry certifications The modules are aligned to these industry certifications: AZ-900 - Azure Fundamentals; AZ-104 - Azure Administrator Associate; SC-900 - Security, Compliance & Identity Fundamentals; AI-901 - Azure AI Fundamentals;

AB-650 - M365 & AI Services Administrator; MD-102 - Endpoint Administrator Associate. Certification exam fees are not included in the course fee unless NextGen Campus states otherwise.

13 Student Guidelines

- Attend at least 85% of your scheduled classes and all capstone sessions. Inform your course coordinator in advance if you cannot attend.
- Be on time for every class, online or on campus. For online classes, join with your camera available and your full name displayed.
- Complete your LMS module labs every week and keep your Project Book up to date — do not leave them to the end of a module.
- Do your own work. Copying, sharing answers or submitting someone else's work is not allowed in any assessment.
- Use AI tools responsibly: use them to learn and to check your work, check every AI output, never paste confidential or personal data, and say when you used AI in your Project Book.
- Look after campus equipment and follow lab safety instructions, including ESD precautions when handling hardware.
- Keep your LMS login private and check the LMS and your email regularly for announcements, timetable changes and assessment dates.

14 Help and Contact

Head Office	NextGen Campus (Pvt) Ltd, Nugegoda, Sri Lanka
Phone	+94 11 251 5215 · +94 77 810 0810
Email	info@nextgencampus.lk
Website	www.nextgencampus.lk
LMS support	Use the help desk on the NextGen LMS for login, lab environment and technical questions. A weekly online Q&A session is held for LMS labs.
Your course coordinator	Introduced at orientation — contact them about attendance, batches, re-sits and any personal circumstances.



PART B Module Details

The course has 6 modules, studied in the order below. Each module lists its aim, what you will learn, what you will be able to do, and the hands-on labs you will complete.

Code	Module	Lecture h	Lab h	Industry alignment
M01	Cloud Fundamentals with Microsoft Azure +Ai	12	36	AZ-900 - Azure Fundamentals
M02	Azure Administration +Ai	24	76	AZ-104 - Azure Administrator Associate
M03	Security, Compliance & Identity Fundamentals +Ai	16	44	SC-900 - Security, Compliance & Identity Fundamentals
M04	AI Fundamentals with Microsoft Foundry	12	40	AI-901 - Azure AI Fundamentals
M05	Microsoft 365 & AI Services Administration	16	52	AB-650 - M365 & AI Services Administrator
M06	Endpoint Administration with Microsoft Intune +Ai	16	52	MD-102 - Endpoint Administrator Associate
	Total for modules	96	300	

Lab hours are LMS module labs and campus lab practicals. Capstone and Project Book hours are in addition to the module hours.

M01 Cloud Fundamentals with Microsoft Azure +Ai 12 h lecture · 36 h labs

Phase 1 — Azure Foundations & Administration · Aligned to AZ-900 - Azure Fundamentals

Aim Introduces cloud computing and Microsoft Azure — cloud concepts, Azure architecture and services, and Azure management and governance — preparing students for AZ-900.

What you will learn

- Cloud concepts and benefits
- IaaS, PaaS and SaaS; deployment models
- Azure architecture and resource hierarchy
- Compute, networking and storage services
- Identity, access and security basics
- Cost management, Azure Policy, locks and tags

You will be able to

- Explain cloud computing, shared responsibility and service models
- Describe Azure architecture: regions, zones, subscriptions and resource groups
- Describe Azure compute, networking, storage and identity services
- Describe cost management, governance and monitoring tools

Hands-on LMS labs — 36 hours

- Create and organise resources in the portal and CLI
- Estimate cost with the Pricing Calculator
- Apply tags, policies and resource locks

Using AI in this module

- Overview of Copilot in Azure
- AI-assisted AZ-900 revision and concept mapping

Assessment: end-of-module MCQ assessment and LMS laboratory completion.

M02 Azure Administration +Ai 24 h lecture · 76 h labs

Phase 1 — Azure Foundations & Administration · Aligned to AZ-104 - Azure Administrator Associate

Aim Builds the skills to administer Azure — identities and governance, storage, compute, virtual networking, and monitoring and maintenance — preparing students for AZ-104.

What you will learn

You will be able to

- Identities, RBAC and governance
- Storage accounts, redundancy and access
- VMs, availability and scale sets
- App Service and containers
- ARM templates and Bicep
- Virtual networking and connectivity
- Azure Monitor, Backup and Site Recovery

- Manage Entra users, groups, RBAC, Azure Policy and subscriptions
- Configure storage accounts, Blob and Files with secure access
- Deploy VMs, App Service and containers; use ARM and Bicep
- Build virtual networks, NSGs, peering, DNS and load balancing
- Monitor, back up and restore workloads

Hands-on LMS labs — 76 hours

- Deploy a VM, a web app and a container
- Build a secured multi-tier virtual network
- Configure alerts, backup and restore

Using AI in this module

- Copilot in Azure for administration
- AI-assisted Azure CLI, PowerShell and Bicep

Assessment: end-of-module MCQ assessment and LMS laboratory completion.

M03 Security, Compliance & Identity Fundamentals +Ai 16 h lecture · 44 h labs

Phase 2 — Security & AI Foundations · Aligned to SC-900 - Security, Compliance & Identity Fundamentals

Aim Builds the security, compliance and identity foundation that the AI, Microsoft 365 and endpoint modules apply — Zero Trust, Microsoft Entra, Microsoft Defender and Microsoft Purview — preparing students for SC-900.

What you will learn

- Shared responsibility, defence in depth and Zero Trust
- Microsoft Entra ID functions and identity types
- Authentication, MFA, Conditional Access and governance
- Microsoft Defender XDR, Defender for Cloud and Sentinel
- Microsoft Purview: information protection, DLP, compliance

You will be able to

- Explain security, compliance and identity concepts including Zero Trust
- Describe Microsoft Entra authentication, access management and identity protection
- Describe Microsoft security solutions: Defender XDR, Defender for Cloud and Sentinel
- Describe Microsoft Purview compliance and data-protection capabilities

Hands-on LMS labs — 44 hours

- Explore Entra ID, MFA and Conditional Access
- Tour Defender and Sentinel portals
- Create a sensitivity label and DLP policy

Using AI in this module

- Microsoft Security Copilot overview
- AI-assisted SC-900 revision

Assessment: end-of-module MCQ assessment and LMS laboratory completion.

M04 AI Fundamentals with Microsoft Foundry 12 h lecture · 40 h labs

Phase 2 — Security & AI Foundations · Aligned to AI-901 - Azure AI Fundamentals

Aim Builds AI foundations and hands-on skills with Microsoft Foundry — generative and agentic AI, text, speech, vision and information extraction — within responsible-AI principles, preparing students for AI-901.

What you will learn

- AI concepts, workloads and responsible AI
- Generative AI, prompts and model parameters
- Microsoft Foundry portal and SDK

You will be able to

- Explain AI workloads, model components and responsible-AI principles
- Deploy and configure generative AI models in Microsoft

- Agents and retrieval-augmented generation
- Text, speech and vision workloads
- Content Understanding and information extraction

Foundry

- Build a simple agent and a grounded (RAG) chat solution
- Use text analysis, speech, vision and Content Understanding

Hands-on LMS labs — 40 hours

- Deploy a model and test prompts in Foundry
- Build a grounded agent
- Extract data from documents

Using AI in this module

- The dedicated Azure AI module — builds the AI component used in the capstone

Assessment: end-of-module MCQ assessment and LMS laboratory completion.

M05 Microsoft 365 & AI Services Administration 16 h lecture · 52 h labs

Phase 3 — Microsoft 365, AI Services & Endpoints · Aligned to AB-650 - M365 & AI Services Administrator

Aim Develops the skills to configure, govern and secure Microsoft 365 tenants and workloads and to manage and secure AI services — Microsoft 365 Copilot and agents — preparing students for AB-650.

What you will learn

- Tenant, domains, users and licensing
- Exchange Online, SharePoint and Teams administration
- Identity and access governance
- Purview information protection, DLP and retention
- Microsoft 365 Copilot enablement and oversharing controls
- Agents: Entra Agent ID, Agent 365 and the Copilot Control System
- Microsoft Graph PowerShell

You will be able to

- Configure tenants, domains, licences and workloads (Exchange, SharePoint, Teams)
- Govern and secure the tenant with Entra, Defender XDR and Purview
- Enable and govern Microsoft 365 Copilot and data readiness
- Manage and secure agents with Entra Agent ID and Agent 365; monitor AI usage and cost

Hands-on LMS labs — 52 hours

- Configure a tenant with custom domain and workloads
- Apply Purview labels and DLP before Copilot rollout
- Govern and monitor an agent

Using AI in this module

- The dedicated Microsoft 365 AI services module

Assessment: end-of-module MCQ assessment and LMS laboratory completion.

M06 Endpoint Administration with Microsoft Intune +Ai 16 h lecture · 52 h labs

Phase 3 — Microsoft 365, AI Services & Endpoints · Aligned to MD-102 - Endpoint Administrator Associate

Aim Develops endpoint administration skills — preparing infrastructure for devices, deploying Windows with Autopilot, managing devices, applications and updates, and protecting endpoints — preparing students for MD-102.

What you will learn

- Hybrid identity and device join types
- Enrolment and Windows Autopilot
- Compliance and configuration profiles
- Windows Update for Business
- App deployment and app protection
- Endpoint security and Defender for Endpoint

You will be able to

- Prepare identity and enrolment for devices
- Deploy Windows with Autopilot
- Manage compliance, configuration, updates and applications with Intune
- Protect devices with Defender for Endpoint, BitLocker and security baselines

Hands-on LMS labs — 52 hours

- Enrol and Autopilot-deploy devices
- Build compliance and configuration policies
- Deploy and protect apps

Using AI in this module

- AI-assisted Intune troubleshooting
- AI-generated device-management documentation

Assessment: end-of-module MCQ assessment and LMS laboratory completion.

