

WIATech

Waterloo Institute of Advanced Technology

FOUNDING COHORT 01

ADMISSIONS CALENDAR & APPLICANT GUIDE

Apply: 1 July - 31 August 2026 | Classes begin: 2 November 2026

In-person learning at the WIATech Waterloo campus.

Your route is based on readiness, not prestige.

You do not need to arrive as an expert. WIATech will review your application, identify your right starting point, and help you build toward the required technical foundation. Academic gaps lead to placement, not automatic rejection.

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Application window	1 July 2026 to 31 August 2026, midnight
Formal cohort start	2 November 2026
Delivery mode	In person at the WIATech Waterloo campus

Read this guide before you apply. It explains the complete Cohort 01 admissions cycle, how applicants are routed, what eligibility means, and what happens after an offer.

1. Welcome to WIATech Founding Cohort 01

This guide explains how to apply to WIATech Founding Cohort 01, what will happen after you apply, how WIATech decides the right starting point for you, and what you must do if you receive an offer.

WIATech is a modern technology institute for serious learners. We teach from the foundation, expect students to work practically, and protect the value of our certificates through honest assessment and professional discipline.

One annual cohort. One shared start.

WIATech has one annual intake. Cohort 01 is a fixed cohort: all admitted students complete onboarding together and begin formal instruction together on 2 November 2026.

2. Cohort 01 at a Glance

Item	Cohort 01 information
Campus	WIATech Waterloo campus, Sierra Leone
Delivery	In-person learning
Application opens	1 July 2026
Application deadline	31 August 2026 at midnight - a hard deadline
Assessment and faculty conversation	July to September 2026, by invitation and in person
Written decisions	By late September 2026
Enrolment and deposit confirmation	By mid-October 2026
Onboarding and orientation	October 2026
Formal start of Cohort 01	2 November 2026

3. Rolling Review: What It Means

Cohort 01 has one fixed start date, but applications are reviewed on a rolling basis between 1 July and 31 August 2026. This means that complete applications may be reviewed as they arrive, and earlier applicants may receive earlier decisions.

Rolling review does not mean students start at different times. Every confirmed Cohort 01 student begins formal instruction together on 2 November 2026.

Apply early. Do not wait until the final week if you are ready to apply. Applying early gives WIATech more time to review your application, contact you where necessary, schedule any invitation-based assessment, and communicate your next steps.

4. The Seven Stages of the Cohort 01 Admissions Cycle

Stage	What happens	When	What it means for you
1	Applications open	1 July 2026	The universal WIATech application opens for Founding Cohort 01.
2	Applications close	31 August 2026, midnight	This is a hard deadline. Submit your complete application before the deadline.
3	Assessment and faculty conversation	July to September, by invitation	Applicants who declare a technical background may be invited to a short supervised assessment and an in-person faculty conversation.
4	Written decisions	By late September	Every applicant receives a written Admit, Waitlist, or Decline outcome. Admitted applicants receive a personalised faculty feedback note.
5	Enrolment and deposits	By mid-October	Admitted applicants confirm their seat by completing the stated enrolment steps and paying the required deposit by the deadline in their offer.
6	Onboarding and orientation	October 2026	Students set up their tools and environment, meet faculty and their cohort, and learn how WIATech works before classes begin.
7	Cohort 01 begins	2 November 2026	Formal instruction begins at the WIATech Waterloo campus.

5. One Application. A Fair Placement Process.

Every applicant uses the same universal application. The application is not an online technical test. Its purpose is to understand your starting point so WIATech can route you correctly.

Inside the application, you will be asked two important questions:

1. Are you comfortable using a computer?
2. Do you already have a technical background?

Answer honestly. This is not about trying to look impressive. It is about helping WIATech put you on the route where you can succeed.

Human review only.

Your application will be read by people. WIATech does not use AI screening, automated ranking, or automated first-pass admissions decisions. Technology may support administration, but people remain accountable for admissions and placement decisions.

6. Your Route Into WIATech

WIATech does not reject a serious applicant simply because they have not yet had the opportunity to learn technical skills. Your route depends on your current readiness.

<p>1. Computer readiness</p> <p>Not yet comfortable using a computer?</p> <p>Start with DGL 30: Digital Literacy & Computer Readiness. Then move into the relevant Tier 1 foundations.</p>	<p>2. Foundation route</p> <p>Comfortable using a computer but new to technology?</p> <p>Start with the Tier 1 foundations required for your chosen diploma pathway.</p>	<p>3. Assessment route</p> <p>Already have a technical background?</p> <p>Declare it in your application. You may be invited to a short supervised assessment and faculty conversation.</p>
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The real academic gate

Every WIATech diploma has a Tier 1 foundation floor. You clear that floor in one of two ways: by demonstrating equivalent readiness through the supervised WIATech assessment, or by successfully completing the foundations you need. This protects the quality of every diploma.

7. If You Declare a Technical Background

A technical background can include prior learning or hands-on experience in areas such as programming, web development, IT, networking, systems, cybersecurity, cloud, data, databases, technical coursework, self-teaching, or building technical projects.

If you declare a technical background, WIATech may invite you to an in-person process with two parts:

Part	What happens	What WIATech is looking for
Short supervised assessment	You complete a brief assessment in person under WIATech supervision.	Evidence of real understanding and foundation-level ability - not memorised definitions or certificate claims.
Faculty conversation	You speak with WIATech faculty in person after the assessment.	How you think, approach problems, explain what you know, and where you will be best placed.

This is not an interview designed to embarrass people. It is a professional conversation about your readiness and your next step.

Possible outcomes of the assessment route

You may be placed directly into the appropriate diploma if you demonstrate the required foundation level. Or you may be routed into the exact Tier 1 foundations you still need. A foundation placement is not a failure; it is an honest route to long-term success.

8. Who Can Apply

WIATech is capability-based rather than credential-based. We welcome applicants from different educational and professional backgrounds, provided they are ready to meet the institute’s expectations.

No required certificate threshold	You do not need particular WASSCE credits, a university degree, or previous technology certifications in order to apply.
A personal computer is required	You must have your own suitable computer for the programme. A smartphone alone is not enough for WIATech’s project-first learning model.
English instruction	Classes, learning materials, assessments, and professional communication are conducted in English.
No strict age minimum	Applicants under 18 may apply, but need guardian or parent consent before enrolment can be finalised.
In-person at Waterloo	Cohort 01 takes place at the WIATech Waterloo campus. Students arrange their own transport to and from campus.

Honesty is non-negotiable.

Do not submit false information, copied work, or claims that do not reflect your real experience. Academic gaps can be routed. Dishonesty can affect your application or enrolment.

9. Your Written Outcome

By late September 2026, every completed Cohort 01 application will receive a written outcome.

Outcome	What it means
Admit	You have been offered a place and given an assigned route: DGL 30, Tier 1 Foundations, or direct diploma entry where applicable. Your offer includes the next enrolment steps.
Waitlist	You are still being considered. A waitlist is not a rejection. It may depend on confirmed places, capacity, or final placement review.
Decline	WIATech is unable to offer a place in this intake. A decline is not issued merely because you have a technical gap; it may relate to incomplete requirements, capacity, eligibility conditions, conduct, or application integrity.

10. If You Receive an Offer

An offer is your invitation to enrol. Your place is not secured until you complete the steps stated in your offer letter.

1. Read your offer carefully	Confirm your assigned route, any conditions, your deadline, and the information you need to complete enrolment.
2. Accept by the stated deadline	Your offer will include a specific acceptance deadline. Earlier decisions may have earlier deadlines because WIATech must manage places fairly.
3. Pay the required deposit	Your offer explains the required deposit and the official payment process. A deposit confirms that you intend to take the place.
4. Complete enrolment requirements	Submit any requested information, including guardian consent where applicable.
5. Confirm one learning shift	Choose from the available published shifts and confirm the one you can attend consistently.
6. Complete onboarding and orientation	October onboarding is mandatory before formal instruction begins.

Only use official payment instructions.

Do not pay anyone to obtain an offer, assessment invitation, preferred placement, or advantage. Use only the official WIATech payment instructions provided with your offer or through verified WIATech channels.

11. Learning Shifts and Your Attendance Commitment

WIATech plans to offer shifts to make serious study more possible for learners who work, run businesses, care for family, or have other real responsibilities. This is a support for commitment - not permission to attend casually.

When you enrol, you will choose one official learning shift. That shift is your class commitment. You are expected to attend it consistently, arrive on time, participate actively, and complete the work required of you.

- You may not casually move between shifts whenever you miss your assigned class.
- You may not treat other shifts as an optional replacement for regular attendance.
- A shift change requires WIATech approval and depends on genuine need and available capacity.

12. October Onboarding and Orientation

October 2026 is the Cohort 01 onboarding month. The aim is simple: Day 1 should begin with learning, not confusion about software, schedules, rules, or basic setup.

Your route and shift	Confirm your placement route, programme direction, and registered learning shift.
Your tools and environment	Set up required software, accounts, communication channels, and your learning environment.
The WIATech standard	Learn attendance, integrity, assessment, project, conduct, and professional expectations.
Your people	Meet faculty, staff, and fellow students in the Founding Cohort.
Your learning start	Understand the schedule, support channels, practical work expectations, and what comes next.

Orientation is required.

Students must complete required onboarding and orientation steps before formal instruction begins. This protects your readiness and ensures the cohort begins together on a clear foundation.

13. Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need a degree, WASSCE credits, or certificate to apply?	No. WIATech is capability-based. You may demonstrate readiness through the admissions and placement process.
What if I cannot use a computer confidently yet?	You are routed to DGL 30, WIATech’s Digital Literacy & Computer Readiness bridge, before the technical foundations.
What if I am comfortable using a computer but have never studied technology?	You begin with the relevant Tier 1 foundations. This is a normal route, not a rejection.
What if I already know some programming or technology?	Declare your technical background honestly. You may be invited to the supervised assessment and faculty conversation for direct-entry consideration.
Is there an online test in the application portal?	No. The portal uses honest readiness declarations. Any direct-entry assessment is supervised and held in person by invitation.
Will an AI decide whether I get admitted?	No. WIATech does not use AI screening, automated ranking, or automated first-pass admissions decisions.
Can I use only my phone?	No. You need your own suitable computer. WIATech is project-first, and students must build and practise on a computer.
Can I attend any shift whenever I am free?	No. You select one official shift and are expected to attend it consistently. Shift flexibility is structured, not casual attendance.
When do classes start?	Formal instruction for Founding Cohort 01 begins on 2 November 2026 after October onboarding and orientation.
What should I do now?	Read this guide, ensure you can meet the computer and in-person attendance requirements, then submit a complete and honest application from 1 July 2026.

14. Applicant Checklist

Before you submit your application, make sure you can honestly say the following:

- I understand that Cohort 01 is delivered in person at the WIATech Waterloo campus.
- I can arrange my own transport to and from campus.
- I have, or will have before enrolment, my own suitable computer for project work.
- I will answer the computer-readiness and technical-background questions honestly.
- I understand that technical gaps may route me to DGL 30 or Tier 1 Foundations.
- I understand that direct diploma entry requires demonstrated readiness through WIATech assessment and faculty review.
- I understand that applications close on 31 August 2026 at midnight.
- I understand that, if admitted, I must complete enrolment, pay the required deposit, choose one official shift, and complete onboarding.
- I am prepared to attend consistently and take responsibility for my learning.

15. Final Message

WIATech is built for people who want to grow into serious technology professionals. You do not need to arrive with every skill. But you must arrive ready to learn honestly, practise consistently, attend seriously, and meet the standard.

The WIATech message to every applicant

You do not need to arrive fully prepared. But you must arrive honest, willing to learn, ready to commit, and prepared to meet the standard.

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