

NIMLAS 2026 Workshop Manual: Creating a Hugging Face Account and Testing HuggingChat

Purpose

In this workshop, we will explore several open-source Large Language Models (LLMs) using **HuggingChat**, a free chat interface provided by Hugging Face.

Before the workshop begins, everyone should be able to:

- Create a free Hugging Face account.
- Log in to HuggingChat.
- Select an AI model.
- Send a simple prompt.
- Receive a response from the selected model.

No previous experience with Hugging Face is required.

Part 1. Create a Free Hugging Face Account

Step 1. Visit the Hugging Face Website

Open your web browser and visit the **Hugging Face website**:

<https://huggingface.co>

Step 2. Create an Account

1. Select **Sign Up** on the Hugging Face website.
2. Choose one of the available sign-up methods:
 - Continue with Google

- Continue with GitHub
 - Sign up with an email address
3. Follow the instructions on the screen to complete your registration.

If you sign up with an email address, you will be asked to:

- Choose a username.
- Enter your email address.
- Create a password.

Step 3. Verify Your Email, If Requested

Hugging Face may send a verification message to your email address.

If you receive a verification email:

1. Open the email from Hugging Face.
2. Select the verification link in the email.
3. Return to the Hugging Face website.

Step 4. Log In

Log in to Hugging Face using the account you just created.

After you successfully log in, your account information and profile options should be available from the Hugging Face website.

Part 2. Open HuggingChat

Open **HuggingChat**:

<https://huggingface.co/chat>

If you are asked to log in, use the Hugging Face account you created in Part 1.

After logging in, you should see a chat interface with a message box where you can type a prompt.

Part 3. Select an AI Model

Find the **model name** displayed near the message box. The message box may display text such as **“Ask anything.”**

1. Select the current model name.
2. A list of available models should appear.
3. Select any available chat model from the list.

The screenshot below shows an example of where the model name may appear in the HuggingChat interface.

Alternative text for the screenshot: HuggingChat message box showing the currently selected AI model near the bottom of the message box. Select the model name to open the list of available models.

Note: HuggingChat may change its interface and available models over time. Your screen may therefore look different from the example shown in this manual. Any available chat model is acceptable for this test.

Part 4. Run Your First Test

Find the message box and type the following prompt:

Hello! Please introduce yourself in one sentence.

Press **Enter** or select the **Send** button.

Wait a few seconds for the model to respond.

Part 5. Confirm That Everything Works

If the test is successful, the AI model will generate a response to your prompt.

For example, a model might respond:

“Hello! I’m an AI language model that can answer questions and help with a variety of tasks.”

Your response does **not** need to match this example. Different models may produce different responses.

Receiving a response confirms that you can use HuggingChat for the workshop.

Completion Checklist

Before the workshop begins, confirm that you have completed each task:

- I created a Hugging Face account.
- I logged in successfully.
- I opened HuggingChat.
- I selected an AI model.
- I entered a prompt.
- I received a response from the model.

If you completed all six tasks, you are ready for the workshop.

In the workshop, you will use HuggingChat to explore and compare the behavior of different open-source Large Language Models.