Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Your Assessments

A Guide for Students

29th September 2023

Purpose

This document provides Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for students on the use of generative artificial intelligence in assessments/assignments.

What do generative artificial intelligence tools (e.g. ChatGPT) do?

These models are also known as Large Language Models. They are based on algorithms that automatically generate content (e.g., texts, images) in response to questions or 'prompts'. This content sounds or looks as though it has been produced by humans.

Is it plagiarism to submit a piece of assessment that has been wholly or partially created by an artificial intelligence tool?

Yes, this is plagiarism if you submit it as your own work. Assessments are designed to help you learn and to assess what you have learned, so it is essential that your assessments are your own work.

You must acknowledge the sources of any information or ideas that you draw on by referencing properly. This is very clear in the *DkIT Academic Integrity Policy and Procedures* (https://www.dkit.ie/about-dkit/policies-and-guidelines/academic-policies.html):

"*Using generative artificial intelligence tools (e.g. ChatGPT) in an assessment unless explicitly permitted to do so and with proper acknowledgement, is a form of plagiarism*" (p.4).

Can I use a generative artificial intelligence tool, such as ChatGPT, to help me prepare an assignment?

You can use these tools ethically to help you learn. For example, you could use them to help you to draw up a study plan, to summarise information, to help narrow down a topic or to generate flashcards or practice questions. You should not use them unethically to create some or all of your assignments. In some cases, your lecturer may allow or even require you to use generative AI as part of a learning activity or assessment. For example, you might be asked to critique an AI-generated response to a question. This will be made clear in your assessment brief, and you should always check with your lecturer before you use these tools.

If you use generative AI in an assignment, you do need to acknowledge this. If in doubt, ask your lecturer or library. It is also your responsibility to check the accuracy of the information.

What happens if my lecturer allows the use of AI in an assessment?

If a lecturer permits the use of artificial intelligence (AI), the terms of this use will be included in the assessment brief by the lecturer(s). The use of artificial intelligence will be "unrestricted", "restricted", or "prohibited". If you permitted to use AI, you will be asked to provide a declaration of use in your submitted assessment.

This will:

- Provide a written acknowledgment of the use of generative artificial intelligence.
- Specify which technology/technologies were used.
- Identify the prompts used.
- Provide the resulting outputs.
- Explain how the output was used in the submitted work (used directly or modified).

Declaration of Use Example

I acknowledge the use of **[1] [insert AI system(s) and link(s)]** to **[2] [specific use of generative artificial intelligence]**. The prompts (generated on <date(s)>) used include **[3] [list of prompts]**. The prompt outputs were as follows / are included in an appendix (depending on volume) **[4] [prompt outputs]/[appendix]**. The output from the generative artificial intelligence was used to **[5][explain use]**.

I acknowledge the use of **[1] ChatGPT (https://chat.openai.com/)** to **[2] generate materials on background research for this assessment**. The prompts (generated on 15th Sept 2023) used include:

[3] Write a 50 word summary about the topic x. Write it in an academic style.

The prompt outputs are included in an appendix at the end of the assessment **[4] [appendix]**.

The output from the generative artificial intelligence was **[5] adapted and modified for the final submission.**

If use is permitted, and you decide not to use AI, you should include the following declaration in your submitted assessment:

'"*No content generated by AI technologies has been used in this assessment*".'

Are there any disadvantages to using generative AI?

Yes. The content produced is not always accurate. The tools can produce false information or 'hallucinations'. While some hallucinations will be easy to spot, others may appear very plausible. For example, the content might include references that look good but do not exist. In some cases, the content might be biased. Bias is widely recognised as a problem with many algorithms. This is often the result of biases in the data used to train the software but may also be due to biases being designed in.

Will my lecturer know if I use generative AI to produce an assignment?

Your lecturers are subject experts, and will spot issues like inaccuracies, false references and inconsistent style. They will also be familiar with your participation in class and your work more generally and will notice inconsistencies. New tools are available that aim to detect AI generated content. While these are at an early stage, and further development and testing is needed, they may be used as one of a number of indicators if further investigation is needed.

Everyone in higher education is very aware of the implications of generative AI for academic integrity. Institutions have an obligation to uphold academic integrity and any suspected misuse of AI to plagiarise will be investigated in the same way as any other suspected breach of academic integrity. Please familiarise yourself with DkIT's Academic Integrity Policy and Procedures (https://www.dkit.ie/about-dkit/policies-and-guidelines/academic-policies.html).

Increasingly, lecturers are designing assessments that cannot be answered easily by generative AI tools. Most importantly though, if you are not doing your own work, then you are not meeting the learning outcomes needed for your course.

I'm not sure what is an ethical use of generative AI and what is not?

It's ok to be unsure. Generative AI is a very new development and things are changing all the time at a rapid pace. Policies and guidelines are updated regularly, so be sure to check the DkIT's Academic Integrity Policy and Procedures (https://www.dkit.ie/about-dkit/policies-and-guidelines/academic-policies.html).

Remember that it is always unethical to use generative AI to produce work that you claim as your own. This is plagiarism.

It is very important to talk to your lecturers and programme team – if in doubt, ask and make sure that you follow the guidance given. There are other great sources of help and guidance including the Student Learning and Development Centre (SLDC) and the Library.

Document History

Version Number	Date Approved	Approved By	Brief Description
1	29/09/2023	Academic Council (Meeting No. 189).	Initial student guidance for assessments.