RG58 Policy on the Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Academic Assignments	Effective date: 03/2024	
Authorised owner: Siobhan Mellor	Department(s) / Project team(s): PedAL	Last revision: 03/2024
Classification: Public	Issue: 01	Next review: 03/2025

Policy on the Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Academic Assignments

Introduction

This policy acknowledges the potential benefits of AI tools for learning and research while upholding the principles of academic integrity and intellectual honesty. It aims to guide Real Group delegates on the responsible and ethical use of AI in completing academic assignments.

Permissible Use

If you are using AI, think carefully about how you can apply it to support and enhance your learning, and always be transparent about what you have done with the tool and how you have used the content generated.

There are many different ways that you might use AI tools for your learning. They may be valuable in preparation of work particularly at the early stages of planning, thinking and generating ideas, if this use is allowed within the assignment you have been set. You may also find it useful to think about the support AI tools might provide within the writing process. When considering all of these uses however, you must ensure that any work you submit for assessment is your own.

- **Research and Inquiry:** Delegates may use AI tools to explore and analyze information, find relevant sources, and identify research trends.
- **Grammar and Style Checking:** AI tools can be used to identify and correct grammatical errors and improve sentence structure. However, delegates should demonstrate comprehension and ownership of the revised content.
- **Data Analysis and Visualization:** AI tools can help process and visualize complex data, but delegates must understand the data, analysis, and presentation.
- **Citation Assistance:** AI can help manage references and generate bibliographies, but delegates are responsible for ensuring accuracy and completeness.
- **Conceptual Exploration:** AI may be used to brainstorm ideas, create outlines, or generate hypotheses, but final work should reflect critical thinking and original analysis.

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Limitations of Use

- **Lack of context:** Generative AI lacks the context of the teaching on your course - you should also review your lecture and seminar notes for ideas of topics and perspectives to incorporate into your academic writing.
- **Validity and reliability:** AI is only able to generate responses based on the information it is trained on and the available dataset. This may not always be current and tools may be drawing on sources that are months or years out of date. Additionally if the dataset is biased, this bias will be transferred into the generated content. Without careful analysis, biases, stereotypes and in some cases Western perspectives may be perpetuated.
- **Critical Thinking:** Whilst AI can synthesise information on a debate it can not assess which side has more strength or credibility as it may not pick up on subtleties and nuances in the writing, which the writers use to express their stance. Therefore AI tools can't apply the knowledge generated to the real world, except in a very superficial sense.
- **No marking criteria:** It is crucial that your writing answers the task set in the assignment, rather than providing generic information and content on your subject area. Your assignments are marked according to the criteria set by your tutors and any relevant Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies (PSRBs), which AI tools do not take into account when generating content.

Prohibited Use

- **Generating Content:** AI-generated text, code, or solutions are strictly prohibited unless explicitly permitted by the instructor. This includes using AI to write essays, responses, reports, or code from scratch.
- **Plagiarism:** Using AI to rephrase or paraphrase existing content without proper attribution is considered plagiarism.
- **Misrepresentation of Work:** Submitting AI-generated work as one's own original work constitutes academic dishonesty.
- **Bypassing Learning Objectives:** Using AI to complete assignments in a way that bypasses essential learning objectives is unacceptable.

Responsibilities

- **Delegates:**

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- **Seek Clarification:** Before using AI, consult with instructors for specific guidelines and permitted tools.
- **Disclose Use:** Clearly disclose any use of AI in assignments, outlining its role and the extent of its contribution using the correct referencing conventions.
- **Maintain Ownership:** Demonstrate critical thinking and understanding of the work, even when using AI tools.
- **Uphold Integrity:** Always act ethically and honestly, avoiding any manipulation or misuse of AI.

- **Tutors:**
    - **Provide Guidance:** Set clear expectations and inform delegates about the acceptable use of AI in their courses.
    - **Design Authentic Assessments:** Create assignments that emphasize critical thinking, analysis, and original perspectives, making it difficult to misuse AI.
    - **Detect and Address Misuse:** Implement strategies to identify and address potential misuse of AI tools.

Conclusion

By adhering to this policy, delegates, tutors and Real Group can foster a responsible and ethical learning environment where AI serves as a valuable tool for enhancing academic inquiry and achievement, while maintaining the core principles of academic integrity and intellectual honesty.

Related Documents

Document history

Issue 1

Initial release