Using generative AI with academic integrity

Students may use generative AI tools under the direction of unit teaching staff and with proper acknowledgement of its use.

About genAI

Generative artificial intelligence (genAI) provides powerful tools that have the potential to support learning and enhance workplace productivity. AI and natural language processing models are being embraced across a range of industries.

You may use genAI tools with the approval of your Unit Convenors and teaching staff. Your unit outlines and assessment materials provide guidance around its appropriate use.

Limitations and Reliability

- Content extracted from genAI may not be reliable information. Effective use of genAI assumes the user is both a subject matter expert and sophisticated user of genAI and able to distinguish useful from flawed content.
- Generated content can be factually incorrect, inaccurate, untrue, biased or inequitable. GenAI may:
  - make up references
  - generate out of date content due to the training data used
  - generate outputs that reflect biases in its algorithms or training data
  - include social, cultural and linguistic biases within its data that may be amplified.

  Accuracy, fairness and neutrality cannot be assumed.
- When you provide prompts to some genAI tools, the information you supply may be re-used and distributed to other users by the AI service. This may lead to breaches of copyright.
- GenAI tools may learn from your inputs. Do not enter personal details or confidential information about yourself or anyone else so that you protect the privacy of yourself and others.

Using genAI with integrity

The University sets assessment tasks to inform learning and confirm that you have acquired knowledge and skills and can apply them effectively. Only use genAI tools in assessment with the approval of your teachers and be transparent about your use. Any content (not only writing but also images, coding, mathematic symbols etc) that is not your own will be subject to academic integrity considerations.

When completing an assessment task:

1 Acknowledge and reference use of genAI

- Acknowledge/reference any use of genAI content in your work (including paraphrased genAI output)
- The Library's referencing tool (includes advice about how to acknowledge genAI. Check with Swinburne's Liaison Librarians if you're unsure.

2 Fact-check all genAI output

- GenAI can supply biased, out-of-date, misleading, fictitious or incorrect output. You are responsible for any errors or omissions in the material.
- When fact checking genAI, ensure you include the citation details of the source you used.

3 Ensure your submitted work is your own

- Do not copy genAI content and pass it off it as your own.
- Save drafts and keep records of gen AI prompts, uploaded and downloaded text, images, code etc with timestamps in case you are asked about your use of and decision making about genAI output.

4 Safeguard your skills development

- Overuse of genAI tools can get in the way of: genuine learning and developing new knowledge and skills; using your capacity for ingenuity and critical thinking; and the development of your self-confidence.

Misuse of genAI

Academic integrity breaches include:

- Submitting genAI content (in whole, or in part) as your own work
- Not properly acknowledging use of output from genAI tools in your assessment
- Using genAI for assessment tasks where it is not permitted.

In such cases, penalties for academic misconduct may be applied.

The content of this flyer was developed by the Academic Integrity Working Group and endorsed by the Higher Education Learning and Teaching Committee