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Updated: 31 March 2023

Information Sheet - Part 1 of 2

Ethics and Assessment Integrity

Our students' success will be underpinned by proactive educational opportunities.

Allowing them to:

- Engage with emerging and evolving technologies
- Develop general capabilities and skills that foster their professional expertise, critical thinking and intellectual curiosity.

Our role in maintaining assessment integrity

Is to make academic integrity visible by educating our students to understand and apply the moral code of academia.

(Refer to page 2)

What is JCU's stance on GenAI tools and their use?

At JCU, we measure our impact by the success of our students.

Preparing our students for the future of work will mean ensuring they have the skills for lifelong learning, and we acknowledge that Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) tools will become an embedded part of future ways of working.

Our students' success as graduates will be underpinned by proactive educational opportunities that allow them to engage with emerging and evolving technologies, including GenAI, with an emphasis on the development of the general capabilities and skills that foster their professional expertise, critical thinking, evaluation and intellectual curiosity. At JCU, the use of GenAI in learning, teaching and assessment is required to be ethical, pedagogically sound, transparent and purposeful.

Legislation and Ethics

- Text-based GenAI tools such as ChatGPT fall within the broad definition of an academic cheating services definition (commonly known as **contract cheating**) according to the TEQSA Act 2011 (Cth), s5.
- Currently, while free for non-commercial purposes, text-based GenAI tools do not fall under TEQSA Act 2011(Cth) s 114A. When access is monetised, (commercial purposes), liability may potentially apply (Colbran, Beer and Cowling, 2023).
- Ethics is a human construct and can be defined as "the process of questioning, discovering and defending our values, principles and purpose." (The Ethics Centre, n.d.). Currently, text-based GenAI tools cannot replicate this human construct.
- The databases of text data used to train GenAI tools contain the biases and stereotypes that are prevalent in society. Text-based responses generated by GenAI tools may therefore lead to responses that could be offensive, discriminatory or harmful to certain groups of people (Teachonline.ca, 2023).

Academic Integrity

- Academic integrity is the code of conduct or moral code of academia that relates to university teaching and research activities regardless of how these are performed – including the use of technology.

> "Academic integrity is defined as: a commitment, even in the face of adversity, to six fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility, and courage. From these values flow principles of behaviour that enable academic communities to translate ideals to action" (International Centre for Academic Integrity, 2014). (Guidance Note Academic Integrity, TEQSA).

- Many professions also have their own code of conduct e.g. Engineers (Engineers Australia), Allied Health practitioners (AHPRA).

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Ethics and Assessment Integrity

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Our role in maintaining assessment integrity with GenAI

Make academic integrity visible by educating our students to understand and apply the moral code of academia (academic integrity), in the same way you are going to introduce your students to the moral code of your profession/discipline to prepare them for working in that profession/disciple.

Support the development of students' assessment literacy so they understand the purpose of the assessment, what they need to do to complete the assessment, and how to accurately judge their own work. This will include: clearly articulated assessment descriptions, annotated examples, easily understandable marking rubrics.

Point students to learning and support opportunities that will assist them to develop skills and abilities to maintain academic integrity, e.g., Library and The Learning Centre.

Review your subject's learning outcomes and assessment strategy. Do the learning outcomes reflect the activities graduates will do in the workplace? Does the assessment strategy mirror the types of outputs typical of the workplace? The more you can contextualise to the workplace the greater your chance of minimising the potential for students to show their attainment of the learning outcomes even if they use GenAI tools without approval.

If it is relevant for your students to learn to use GenAI tools as part of their profession (e.g. to streamline work tasks), consider requiring students to document and explain their thought processes as they complete the task in addition to the artefact you have asked them to produce.

Responsible use of GenAI tools – things to consider

1. **Equity.** If you are considering the use of GenAI tools for teaching and assessment, consider cost, digital divide challenges for regional and remote students, privacy (e.g. students may not wish to disclose their phone number which is required for ChatGPT access), accessibility for students with disabilities.

2. **Privacy Protection.** GenAI tools may capture user data which could create challenges to personal privacy through: data persistence (longevity of stored data), data repurposing (data used for purposes other than the original intent) and data spillovers (capture of people who are not the target of the collection) (Pearce, 2021). Phillip Dawson (CRADLE, Deakin University) commented on the same topic as a LinkedIn Post.

3. **Copyright and Intellectual Property.** Copyright law within Australia only credits humans who contributed independent intellectual effort as authors. Within the law an GenAI tool cannot be recognised as an author. There are no rules around using an GenAI tool within your workflow that is then modified by a human. The voluntary principles of the Australian Artificial Intelligence Ethics Framework promote the use of transparency and explainability, "There should be transparency and responsible disclosure so people can understand when they are being significantly impacted by AI, and can find out when an AI system is engaging with them." (Department of Industry, Sciences and Resources, 2019).