

USING GENERATIVE AI (CHAT GPT, BARD etc.)



Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT, Bard, DALL-E, and Midjourney have been making headlines for their potential to change the way we work and study. But what is it generative AI? What can you use it for? When is it OK to use when studying? And when might it get you in trouble?

WHAT IS GENERATIVE AI?



Generative AI tools such as ChatGPT provide human-like responses to prompts. They are trained on a massive amount of digital text to learn patterns in language.

When you ask it a question or give it an instruction, it analyses the words to figure out the context and produces a response that matches the patterns learned from the information it was trained on. This learning is reinforced by humans who check the responses given and provide feedback.

WHAT CAN I USE IT FOR?

Generative AI can be used in many ways to help you study and learn. For example, it can help you:

- Understand complex concepts by explaining them in simpler terms.
- Give you an awareness of key ideas, issues, and terminology.
- Improve your written communication skills by refining your language and style.
- Apply critical, creative, and reflective thinking skills by generating and evaluating your prompts and the accuracy and relevance of the output.
- Prepare for assessments by generating revision tools like quizzes and flash cards to practice with.

You may also be given activities to try using ChatGPT or Bard in your topic or you may be instructed to use it as part of an assessment piece. Be guided by your topic coordinator or assessment instructions and be careful to stay within their guidelines so you don't get in trouble.

WHEN COULD I GET IN TROUBLE USING GENERATIVE AI?



There are several instances where the use of artificial intelligence tools like ChatGPT or Bard when undertaking assessment pieces may constitute academic misconduct, as per the University's [Student Academic Integrity Policy](#). Examples include:

- Using generative AI beyond what is permitted by the topic coordinator. Some topics may not allow the use of AI or may only allow its use with certain limitations. If the topic information or assessment instructions specify how AI can be used, be sure to stay within these guidelines. If you are unsure, check with your topic coordinator.
- Submitting output generated by generative AI as your own work. This may constitute plagiarism, contract cheating, or solicitation.
- Not properly cited output generated by generative AI. Ensure you cite output generated by generative AI according to your topic's preferred referencing style. The [APA 7](#) and [Harvard referencing](#) guides have been updated to include acknowledgment of generative AI tools.
- Not acknowledging your use of generative AI. It is recommended that you provide a declaration acknowledging if and how you have used AI. This should be included either as a footnote or at the



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end of your reference list – check for the preferred option with your topic coordinator. For example:

“I acknowledge the use of ChatGPT in the brainstorming of this assignment using the following prompt: How can students use AI tools ethically? The output was evaluated and integrated with findings from the literature.”

WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT USING AI?

When using generative AI, there are a few things to keep in mind:

- The responses provided by generative AI are based on patterns learned from digital text from the internet, but it is not publicly known exactly what sources are used, how scholarly they are, how research resources are represented, or what percentage was from social media.
- AI is not capable of critical thinking. In essence, it does not ‘understand’ what it is producing. Therefore, it is essential to evaluate the accuracy and relevance of all content produced.
- Generative AI tools only provide responses based on their training data, and can only access information gathered from live searches through search engines or databases in certain cases.
- AI is only as good as the prompts they are given. If you want quality content, you must input quality prompts. This requires critical thinking and reflection in the design of your prompts and how you interact with the output.
- AI can be embedded into other programs and applications such as in Grammarly and in some research applications. Be aware that you may be interacting with AI in ways you may not realise, so if you use an application to help you plan, research, or draft your work, ensure it complies with generative AI limitations as per your assessment requirements.

With these limitations in mind, it is recommended that you don’t rely on AI when:

- You want to find references.
- You need accurate information or evidence.
- You want information on very recent or highly specialised topics.

You should also be wary of relying on AI too much when studying as it can limit your ability to learn essential critical thinking skills – skills you need to succeed during your studies and when you enter your chosen profession!

WHERE CAN I GET SUPPORT FOR USING GENERATIVE AI?

There are a growing range of resources that you can explore to learn more about the use of generative AI tools such as Chat GPT, Bard, DALL-E, and Midjourney.

- Check the Library’s [Using AI Tools for Study guide](#) for more about what AI is, how it works, and the ethical and evaluation considerations for its use.
- Check the [APA 7](#) and [Harvard referencing](#) guides information about citing and acknowledging generative AI tools.
- Speak to a learning advisor in the [Learning Lounge](#) or on [Studiosity](#) if you are unsure about how to use generative AI in your assessment.



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SHOULD I USE GENERATIVE AI?

