

UHI Principles on the use of Generative AI tools

Introduction

We believe that Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI) has the potential to enhance the user experience for students and staff, create new opportunities for learning and research, and improve the overall efficiency of our operations. We recognise, however, the need for caution and control to ensure safe and ethical implementation. GAI is subject to bias and discrimination, and there are serious concerns about the potential for unauthorised access to sensitive data. As such, it is essential that we implement AI in a responsible and ethical manner, guided by the principles of transparency, accountability, and privacy.

To ensure that the use of GAI at UHI is performed safely, securely, and in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations, our approach is centred around the following principles, which have been informed by the Russell Group Principles¹. The principles must be applied in conjunction with [UHI's Generative Artificial Intelligence \(GAI\) policy](#), [staff](#) and [student guidance](#).

UHI AI Principles

1. We recognise the potential of GAI to enhance everyday work, learning, teaching, and research, and to prepare our students and staff for a GAI-enabled world. We will take a proactive approach to implementing GAI across the university, identifying potential use cases where GAI can improve the user experience for students and staff, enhance our research capabilities, and streamline our operations.
2. We support our students and staff to become GAI-literate, and to use GAI tools effectively and appropriately in their learning and research activities. Users will be informed about the limitations or risks associated with GAI.
3. We adapt our teaching and assessment to incorporate the ethical use of GAI, and to ensure equal access and academic integrity. GAI systems should not be used to generate harmful content such as malicious computer code or to discriminate against, marginalise, or harm any member of UHI's community or society at large.
4. We will seek to make use of GAI tools in ways that are cognisant of and respectful towards the climate, sustainability, and sustainable practices.
5. AI systems should comply with all relevant legal and regulatory requirements.
6. We acknowledge and reference the use of generative GAI tools in our work and respect the intellectual property and privacy rights of others.

¹ [rg_ai_principles-final.pdf \(russellgroup.ac.uk\)](#). A Scottish working group which has UHI representation will develop principles for the region that will be adopted when published.

7. AI systems should be subject to human oversight and control. This means that there should be mechanisms for human intervention in case of errors or adverse impacts, and that the system should not be fully autonomous or beyond human understanding.
8. Novelty research using GAI should be approached with caution and care to ensure the principles of ethical and moral guidelines are upheld.
9. We will continually evaluate and assess our GAI implementations, and mitigate any risks associated with their use, using feedback from stakeholders to refine and improve our approach over time.
10. We share our best practice and experience of using GAI tools and contribute to the development and evaluation of GAI in education.

Reference

Russell Group (2023) *Russell Group principles on the use of generative AI tools in education*. Available at: https://russellgroup.ac.uk/media/6137/rg_ai_principles-final.pdf (Accessed 15 Feb 2024).

Table 1: version history

Version	Date	Prepared by	Description
1.0	06/03/2024	Andy Brown Michelle Smith John Smith Keith Smyth	Based on adaptation of Russell Group principles and UHI draft principles for GAI originally scoped by Andy Brown, John Smith