Academic Integrity and Artificial Intelligence Tools such as ChatGPT

Academic integrity refers to the ethical and moral code of conduct that governs the behaviour of students, researchers, and academics within an educational institution. For students, academic integrity means doing your assessments honestly and fairly. When you take exams, or write assessments, you should use your own ideas and words. If you use someone else's ideas or words, you need to give them credit, and reference them properly.

One current concern regarding academic integrity is the use of generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools, such as ChatGPT, DALL-E and Bard, which can generate content, including text, images and music. While these tools can be utilised in many positive ways when used responsibly in the education sector by both educators and students, they can also pose some challenges to academic integrity. It is important to note that tools such as ChatGPT frequently generate inaccurate and unreliable information and can produce fictitious references. Therefore, when you are undertaking assignments, you cannot rely on information generated by these tools.

You should always follow guidance given by lecturers with regard to using AI tools. If you are permitted to use such tools in an academic context, you should keep these guidelines in mind:

- **Citing Sources:** If you use information or ideas generated by AI tools, cite these similarly to how you would cite any other source. Provide proper attribution to the AI tool(s) used to acknowledge the contribution to your work.
- **Understanding and Verification:** Do not blindly trust the information provided by AI tools. These tools have limitations and might not always provide accurate or up-to-date information. Use critical thinking to evaluate the content they generate. Double-check facts, figures, and arguments they present by consulting reliable and credible sources.
- **Appropriate Use:** Use AI tools as resources for learning, brainstorming, and generating ideas, rather than as a shortcut to complete assignments without genuine effort. Remember that the goal of education is to develop your skills and knowledge. Always prioritise honesty, transparency, and responsible use of information in your academic endeavours.

You will be provided with more specific advice by the University and individual lecturers throughout the year with regard to the use of AI tools. You should note that if you use such tools knowingly and without referencing them in your assessments, this will be considered a breach of academic integrity and will be dealt with accordingly. If you are uncertain about whether a particular use of AI tools aligns with academic integrity, you should consult your lecturer.

Useful Resources

- ATU Freecourses resource on Academic Integrity, https://freecourses.atu.ie/course/view.php?id=131

- ATU Library Guide on Academic Integrity, https://atlantictu.libguides.com/c.php?g=388773

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