

Policy on the acceptable use of Generative AI in Assessments (LID-Pol-239)

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Related Documents	LID-Pol-063 – Academic Integrity Policy for Learners LID-Pol-066 – Disciplinary Policy and Procedure for Learners LID-Pol-100 - Learner Code of Conduct

1. Purpose

Generative AI refers to artificial intelligence systems that can create new content such as text and/or images, by learning patterns from existing data. Current tools available include the capability to write academic pieces of work.

The purpose of this document is to set out the principles governing the use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) tools in assessments at the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI). It aims to:

- Recognise the growing use of AI in academic and clinical settings
- Promote the ethical use of AI as a research tool
- Ensure academic integrity
- Maintain the quality and authenticity of learner submissions

2. Scope

This policy applies to all learners, faculty, and staff involved in RCPI academic assessments. The policy covers all forms of assessment, including written assignments, examinations, research projects, video based, or multimedia submissions and any other form of academic work submitted for evaluation.

3. Policy Principles

1. Value of AI as a Research Tool

RCPI recognises that similar to other online resources (search engines, library databases etc), GenAI tools can support learning and research by providing insights, generating ideas and assisting learners with the formation of initial concepts which inform their original work.

2. Critical Thinking

The use of GenAI should complement, not replace, critical thinking and original work.

3. Ethical Use of AI

Any use of GenAI tools must align with RCPI ethical standards, including respect for Intellectual Property Rights and data privacy, with appropriate attribution.

4. Authenticity of Submitted Work

All work submitted for correction and feedback must demonstrate the learner's own understanding and capabilities. Work that is partially or wholly generated by GenAI, or which incorporates GenAI-generated content, and which is without appropriate attribution, will not be considered original.

5. Plagiarism and AI

Copying or transcribing text, images, or any other content from AI tools and presenting it as one's own is considered plagiarism, equivalent to copying from any other source. Plagiarism, including the misuse of AI tools, is a serious violation of the RCPI's Academic Integrity policy.

6. Academic Integrity and Misuse of AI

Any misuse of Generative AI tools that violates this policy will be treated as a breach of Academic Integrity Policy for Learners (LID-Pol-063) which is dealt with by RCPI's Academic Integrity Procedures for Learners (LID-SOP-064).

Misuse includes, but is not limited to, using GenAI tools to create content that is submitted as original work, bypassing the learning process, or attempting to deceive examiners.

4. Responsibilities

1. Learners

Learners must recognise that GenAI is a support tool, rather than a substitute for the original thinking, research, critical appraisal and synthesis skills which are core to their professional development during postgraduate study.

Learners must ensure that all submitted work genuinely reflects their own efforts and understanding. RCPI's expectation is that any content generated from Gen AI is critically evaluated, synthesised, thoughtfully integrated and clearly contextualised within the learner's own arguments and analysis.

Learners are required to appropriately reference the use of GenAI with clear acknowledgement of the source of work which is not their own.

2. RCPI Training, Education & Lifelong Learning Staff and Faculty

RCPI Training, Education & Lifelong Learning staff will actively support RCPI Faculty in understanding the evolving landscape of GenAI tools, including capabilities, limitations and potential impacts on education.

Faculty members will be assisted in designing assessments that promote original thought and creativity, thereby minimising opportunities for the misuse of GenAI.

5. Compliance and Enforcement

RCPI will continually review strategies and tools to detect inappropriate use of AI in student work, ensuring that academic integrity is upheld.

Inappropriate use of GenAI tools in a submitted assessment is considered Academic Misconduct and dealt with under RCPI's Academic Integrity Procedures for Learners (LID-SOP-064) and Disciplinary Policy and Procedure for Learners (LID-Pol-066).

6. Review of Policy

Given the rapid pace of technological advancement, this policy will be reviewed annually or as necessary to adapt to emerging AI technologies.

References:

National Academic Integrity Network (2023) *Generative Artificial Intelligence: Guidelines for Educators*. 1st ed. Dublin: Quality & Qualifications Ireland (QQI).

The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (2023) *Maintaining quality and standards in the ChatGPT era: QAA advice on the opportunities and challenges posed by Generative Artificial Intelligence*. Available at: <https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/members/maintaining-quality-and-standards-in-the-chatgpt-era.pdf> (Accessed: 5th September 2024)

Appendix 1: Declaration of Originality

Declaration of Original Work

As a learner enrolled on a Royal College of Physicians of Ireland programme, I acknowledge I am required to continually demonstrate the highest standards of academic integrity.

By submitting this assessment, I confirm:

1. **Originality of Work**

I confirm this submission is my own original work.

I have not engaged in any form of plagiarism or collusion.

I have appropriately referenced all content derived from books, journals and websites and other sources.

2. **Appropriate Use of Generative AI Tools**

I confirm that any content derived from a Generative AI tool has been critically evaluated, synthesised and integrated within my own original arguments.

I understand that misrepresenting AI-generated content as my own original work constitutes Academic Misconduct.

3. **RCPI Policies**

I understand that submission of this assessment is governed by RCPI Academic Integrity Policy for Learners (LID-Pol-063).