

Utilising Generative AI

Transnational Collaboration for Sustainable Solutions, autumn 2024

Generative AI tools have advanced to the point where they can write essays, emails, develop apps, design rubrics, assist with Excel, and handle virtually any writing task that involves linguistic patterns. However, students should be aware of the following:

- AI tools rely on language patterns to predict what an answer to a prompt should look like. They aren't "thinking" about the right response in a way a student would.
- AI tools excel at predictive text and pattern recognition but struggle with accuracy. They can make up information that sounds convincing but isn't true. Students must always independently verify facts rather than relying solely on AI as the primary information source.
- AI tools have bias. They have been trained on datasets that contain certain worldviews and assumptions and will replicate those ways of thinking about the world. Critical thinking strategies are especially important when engaging with AI-generated text.
- AI requires significant computing power and AI systems often rely on exploiting social and ecological resources. Unnecessary use of AI is unsustainable.
- AI tools such as ChatGPT depersonalise your writing. Overreliance may lead to a lack of voice and distinctive style.

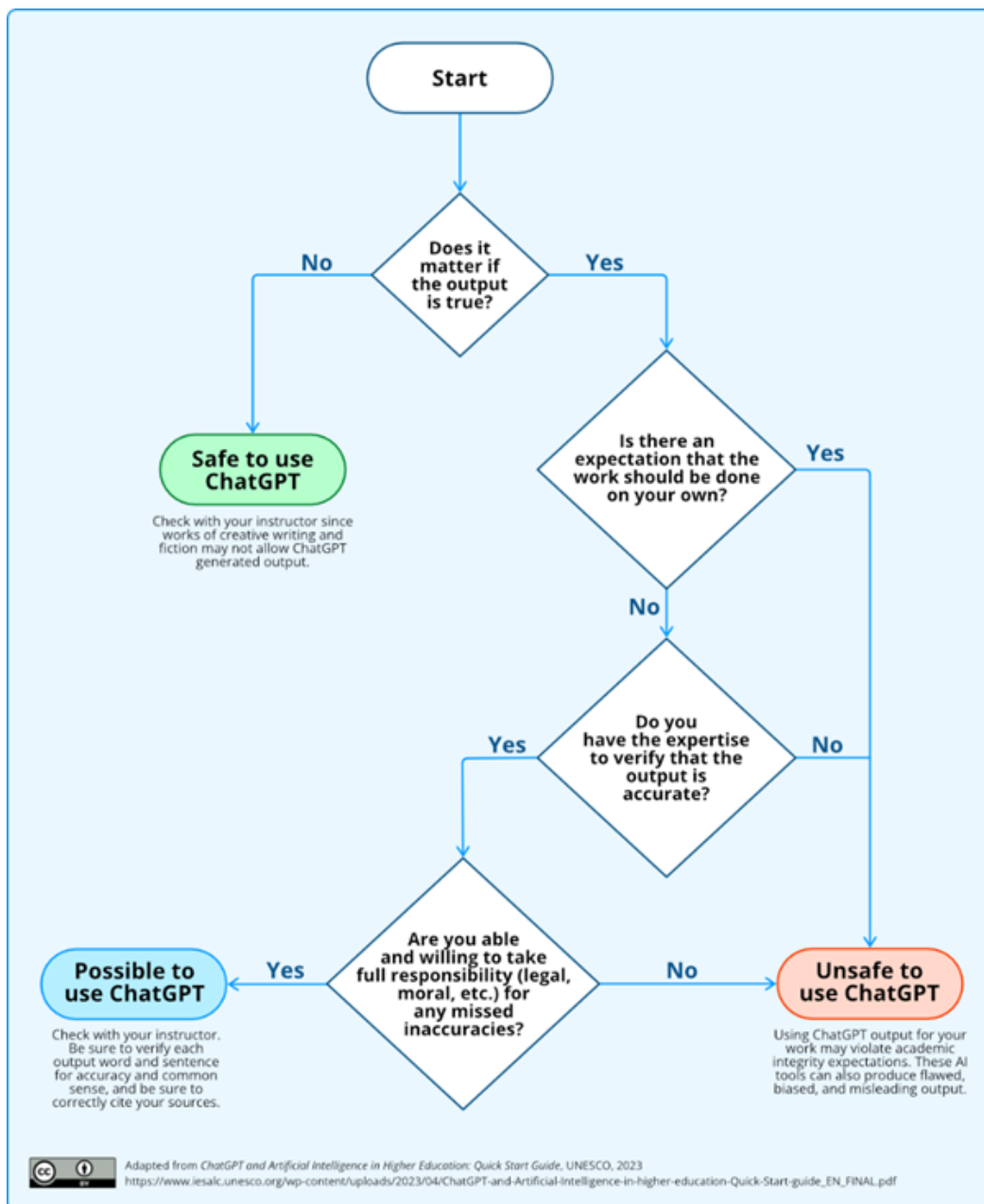
How and when can AI be used?

AI tools can be especially useful when you have already exhausted your own resources — i.e., put everything you know and feel about a topic on paper/screen — and want to know if there is anything more you could say on the topic. Please note it will not work the other way around. After AI gives you its suggestions, it is much more difficult for you to come up with additional ones. Additionally, if you proceed in this order, the work you produce (essay, presentation, etc.) is not your own, it is AI's.

Generative AI tools can be used for certain aspects of the course work, e.g., to help with brainstorming, revising and editing, and identifying flaws in reasoning. AI tools should not be used to generate comments and responses in discussion forum tasks, nor reflective learning journal entries.

When is it safe to use AI?

The following flowchart is adapted from *ChatGPT and Artificial Intelligence in Higher Education: Quick Start Guide* (UNESCO and UNESCO International Institute for Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean, 2023).



Acknowledgment and documentation of AI usage

Students using AI must be transparent about their use and make sure it aligns with academic integrity. If you used generative AI tools such as ChatGPT, Microsoft Co-Pilot, Gemini, and Grammarly to assist with an assignment — beyond spell-check or grammar suggestions — you must acknowledge its use by submitting a disclosure statement (see template) where you list all AI tools used, specify how and where readers can expect to see the impact, and provide documentation of conversations with the AI tools. Additionally, AI should be included in the reference list (if the assignment requires a reference list).

Reference entry:

OpenAI. (2023). ChatGPT (Mar 14 version) [Large language model].

<https://chat.openai.com/chat>

Consequences of unacknowledged AI usage

Submitting AI-generated work without identifying it as such or providing misleading information in the disclosure statement may result in academic consequences. In such cases, the marking of any work may be suspended. If a student appears to have used generative AI without acknowledging it, the teacher will contact them to discuss available options to rework or revise the assignment before resubmission. If a student is unsure of whether and how much of a submission has been AI-generated, or whether they are in violation of a certain course policy, they should reach out to the teacher and ask for guidance.

This handout is based on

American Psychological Association. (2020). How to cite ChatGPT. *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). <https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/how-to-cite-chatgpt>

Åbo Akademi University. (n.d.). *Generative AI in studies*. <https://abofi.sharepoint.com/sites/intra-en-study/SitePages/Generative-AI-in-studies.aspx?web=1>