

## UNIVERSITY OF CYPRUS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN EDUCATIONAL PROCESSES

The field of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is undergoing rapid developments. Generative Artificial Intelligence tools, such as ChatGPT/ChatPDF, allow the generation of written text, audio and images with highly realistic results. The University of Cyprus (UCY) is committed in the ethical and responsible use of AI based on specific principles for its utilization and on the appropriate preparedness of its staff and students. The following principles/recommendations regarding the utilization of AI in the educational process are in effect, starting in the Fall Semester 2023-2024, and will be revised at regular time intervals.

### GENERAL CONTEXT OF USE

- UCY encourages experimentation with available AI tools that aid the process of **comprehension and learning, given that their use does not violate applicable ethical principles**. It is noted that, AI tools must be utilised in combination with critical thinking, while also acknowledging their sometimes potentially serious weaknesses. Implementation of such practices, can potentially lead to the constructive enhancement of the teaching and learning process.
- Instructors may allow students to use AI tools in coursework assignments for the purpose of **searching and cross-referencing information**, to the extent that such use contributes to the achievement of the learning objectives.

### TRANSPARENCY AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

- When AI tools are used in coursework assignments, students must **explicitly and accurately declare any AI tools used and how these were utilized in the process**.
- It is noted that the use of AI tools by students can contribute to the cultivation of **critical thinking skills**, through the evaluation of the quality of the assistance/responses generated by the AI tool(s).
- Specific **instructions for the use of AI** by students may be provided by the instructors as part of the course syllabus or as part of the written guidelines of a coursework assignment/examination, based on the unique characteristics of a course.

- Instructors are **encouraged** to adapt the assessment methods for coursework assignments/examinations in order to ensure the integrity of the assessment process (e.g., take-home exams and thesis assessments may be supplemented by an **oral examination**).

#### ETHICAL USE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- **Verbatim copying from text generated by AI tools is prohibited.** Instructors have the option of using plagiarism detection tools that recognize AI-generated text (through Blackboard and Moodle). It is noted, however, that plagiarism detection tools may have a margin of error. In the event of plagiarism, further disciplinary action may be taken in accordance with the [Undergraduate Studies Rules](#) (pages 35-43) for undergraduate students and with the [Postgraduate Studies Rules](#) (pages 48-57) for postgraduate students.<sup>2</sup> (Additional information on how students can recognize and avoid plagiarism in general, are provided in the electronic booklet guide of the University of Cyprus Library entitled "[ACADEMIC PLAGIARISM: How to identify and avoid it](#)".)
- It is noted that AI tools should be utilized with **great caution**, with regards to the data submitted to them as input (personal or confidential data, copyrighted information, etc.) and to the results that arise from their use. It is also important to consider that, currently popular AI tools generate algorithmically-derived responses based on existing text which is available online, without confirmation of the accuracy and timeliness of these responses in comparison to valid scientific information sources.
- Users of AI tools are solely responsible for confirming the **accuracy of data and ensuring unbiased and ethical conduct**.

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<sup>2</sup>Based on the [Undergraduate](#) and [Postgraduate](#) Studies Rules, plagiarism and collusion in written papers is defined as *“the appropriation and/or incorporation in a paper of ideas whether verbatim or paraphrased, extracts and/or isolated phrases of the work of another person without reference to the source or through misleading or inadequate reference to the primary source.”*. The Rules further state that plagiarism or collusion in examinations is defined as *“the failure to fulfil an evaluation procedure in a personal, self-reliant and independent way, as determined by the academic staff through the method of examinations.”*.