

Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use Policy

1. Purpose

This policy provides guidance to Burren College of Art staff and students regarding the use of Generative AI in academic assignments. The college is committed to creativity, transparency, and originality while upholding the highest standards of academic integrity. This policy operates alongside the college's existing Academic Integrity Policy.

2. Definition of Generative AI

This policy specifically addresses Generative AI, defined as systems capable of creating new and unique texts, images, code, sounds, or music in response to user prompts (e.g., ChatGPT, MidJourney, DALL-E-2).

It does not cover:

- **AI-powered tools** for correcting or improving expression, such as grammar checkers or photo editors.
- **Online research tools** like image search engines.
- **Machine learning** where a student trains their own model.

In these excluded cases, students must still be able to declare unequivocal authorship of their work.

3. Guiding Principles

Generative AI can be a valuable aid to learning, research, and creativity if used in a critical and informed manner. Students are expected to:

- Understand how these tools function and what data they draw upon.
- Be aware of the implications for Intellectual Property and copyright for both their own work and the work of others.
- Recognize the limitations of AI, including its tendency to exploit human creativity without acknowledgment.
- Maintain transparency so that teaching staff can provide effective feedback on their learning process.

4. Permitted Uses and Staff Authority

Teaching staff have the authority to set limits on AI use based on the Learning Outcomes of a specific module or class.

- **Prohibition:** Teaching staff may prohibit AI use when the task requires the development of specific manual or research skills.
- **Limited Use:** Teaching staff may allow AI for specific tasks, such as ideation during early project phases or as a critical investigation of the tool itself. In such cases, staff will specify the permitted extent and may require a formal declaration (e.g., on a cover sheet or in captions).
- **Uninhibited Use:** Teaching staff may allow full use of AI for certain tasks, provided this is declared in the course documentation and the student provides a full declaration of how the AI was employed.

5. Detection and Academic Integrity

Teaching staff reserve the right to use AI detection tools to confirm the origin of a student's work, though they should not rely on them exclusively due to potential inaccuracies.

6. Procedures for Suspected Breaches

If a student is suspected of using AI in a way that contravenes this policy:

1. **Investigation:** The student must meet with teaching staff to explain their work process.
2. **Minor Breaches:** "First offences" or minor violations typically require the student to re-submit the work. This may include a grade penalty or a requirement to resit the assessment.
3. **Substantial Breaches:** Significant violations may result in a fail grade and a requirement to repeat the class assignment or module.
4. **Serious Misconduct:** Deception or denying AI use despite evidence of an unfair academic advantage is considered serious academic misconduct. Such cases will be referred to the Dean of Academic Affairs to invoke formal Student Discipline Procedures.