

Heriot-Watt General principles on use of technology and artificial intelligence

1. HW General principles on use of technology

HW recognises the importance of digital capabilities in a technology-enabled world and seeks to ensure that students and staff develop these capabilities. HW is focused on helping staff and students to understand and use new and emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence, as they develop.

1. Students and staff are encouraged to use technologies to enhance and support learning & teaching.
2. Students and staff should use HW supported technology as this has been reviewed to ensure that their privacy is protected, and the technology is cyber secure and safe to use.
3. Staff and students should think critically about any choice to use technology:
 - a. Do you need to use technology at all?
 - b. Is this the most appropriate choice of technology? E.g. is it ethical, equitable sustainable and effective.
 - c. What would be a proportionate use of the technology?
4. Students and staff must be confident that they have made informed decisions about using technology, and that such decisions and use is in keeping with academic integrity.
5. HW will support staff and students to develop to digital capabilities needed to participate effectively in the university and wider society.

2. General statement on Artificial intelligence (AI)

Heriot-Watt University recognises the opportunities and challenges that developments in artificial intelligence, in particular generative AI, offer to learning, teaching and assessment. We will encourage and support students and staff to engage with artificial intelligence in keeping with the HW general principles on use of technology.

How artificial intelligence technologies may be used at HW

1. Use of generative artificial intelligence is permitted provided that such use is clearly identified and referenced. Generative AI spelling and grammar checking (e.g. MS Word, Grammarly) does not need to be referenced unless specifically indicated within the course.
2. The use of generative AI should be referenced using the appropriate referencing format for the piece of work.
3. Any use of artificial intelligence must align with the principles of academic integrity as outlined by [ICAI](#).

4. Courses and programmes within HW may make use of generative AI where it is appropriate to support the learning outcomes, however there is no requirement for a course or programme to utilise generative AI.
5. If generative AI is to be used, course staff will provide clear guidance to students on how and when generative AI may be used within the course. Any use of generative AI within a course will be in keeping with HW general principles on use of technology. HW will keep under review developments on generative AI detection tools.
6. HW will not be utilising any generative AI detection tools for the period of AY23-24HW will also ensure that staff have the appropriate digital capabilities and the appropriate technologies to provide effective teaching, learning and assessment. This will support students to develop the appropriate digital capabilities to enable them to enter society with the attributes to thrive in this technology-enabled era.

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