

School of Philosophy, Psychology & Language Sciences (PPLS)

Policy on the use of generative AI in research

1. Definitions:

- a) **Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI):** Refers to machine learning models that are trained to generate new data (e.g., text, audio, images) based on existing data. This includes large language models like ChatGPT (and ELM), Gemini, and LLaMA, text-to-image generators like DALL-E, text-to-video generators like Sora, large-data-trained automatic speech recognition systems like Whisper ASR, and AI translation tools like deepL and Lokalise AI.
- b) **Applicability:** This policy applies to all PPLS staff and students involved in research activities, including those as part of course assignments or dissertation/thesis projects. The use of GenAI in student coursework/assessment is subject to the [University-wide policy on AI use](#) and course-wise policy set by the course organiser.

2. Privacy and Data Protection:

Generative AI services may retain information provided by users. PPLS members must avoid entering any potentially identifiable data (such as names, addresses, or dates of birth) into external GenAI services. For research purposes requiring such information, utilise the university-internal GenAI tool, ELM, following approvals from EDINA (edina@ed.ac.uk), the Data Protection Officer (dpo@ed.ac.uk), and the School Ethics Committee ([ethics link](#)).

3. Data Sharing Agreements:

PPLS members handling secondary data under a non-disclosure agreement with another institution must not input the data into any externally hosted GenAI services.

4. Confidentiality in Research:

PPLS members are reminded that inputting confidential research materials (such as grant proposals or manuscripts under blind review) into a GenAI service constitutes a breach of confidentiality.

5. Copyright Considerations:

Since most GenAI services and stand-alone models incorporate copyrighted materials and can produce outputs that may infringe copyright, PPLS members should refrain from sharing any outputs (e.g., images, code) from these tools outside strictly non-commercial research settings. Note that many publishers currently prohibit using GenAI-generated images in manuscript submissions.

6. Transparency in Publication:

PPLS members are advised to openly disclose the use of GenAI tools in their scholarly publications. This does not extend to basic tools used for spelling or reference checking. Here is a sample disclosure statement recommended by Elsevier:

“Statement: During the preparation of this work the author(s) used [NAME TOOL / SERVICE] in order to [REASON]. After using this tool/service, the author(s) reviewed and edited the content as needed and take(s) full responsibility for the content of the publication.”