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Université de Neuchâtel
Institut de langue
et littérature anglaises

English Institute Policy
on Generative AI Use

Generative AI offers exciting new possibilities; at the same time, it has created significant new problems, including an unsustainable ecological footprint, infringement of copyright laws, the dissemination of unreliable and often biased information, and lack of original thinking.

One way the rapid, unregulated introduction of AI chatbots has disrupted teaching and research at all levels is by facilitating the presentation of someone else's thinking as one's own. What has been termed "lazy AI" not only breaks university plagiarism rules; it is also counterproductive, encouraging cognitive atrophy and creating inequalities in the classroom.

Instructors and students are looking for greater trust and transparency around the use of generative AI. As such, the Institute of English Studies has adopted the following policy in line with university guidelines:

- The Institute Policy applies to all instructors and staff members as well as students, and to research as well as teaching.

- Instructors can develop their own AI policy if it accords with institute and university guidelines. Workshop leaders need to have a common policy.

- We believe that basic skills should first be mastered without the use of AI tools as a foundation for future learning.

- This is especially important in first-year gateway courses, in which the use of generative AI may be forbidden.

- We also believe instructors and students should stay on top of AI technology, informing themselves on its strengths and weaknesses, and learning how to use chatbots as research and editing tools.

- Students who, for any reason, do not wish to use generative AI should not be obliged to use it.

- Instructors are encouraged to integrate in-class oral and written assessments as part of their evaluations.

- In all linguistics modules, any use of generative AI must be indicated. If used for research purposes, students must cite all outputs following the MLA or other accepted citation guidelines.

- In all language and literature modules, any use of generative AI must be indicated. If used for research purposes, students must cite all outputs following the MLA citation guidelines. If used for editing purposes, they should hand in an early draft of their work along with the edited final version.

- Students who do not respect the above policy may be asked to discuss their work in person with their instructor, and eventually to redo the assignment.