

Department of Computer Science and Technology AI Policy

The University's General Board has asked Faculty Boards to devise a local policy on the use of AI tools in examination and assessment. The following policy was approved by the Faculty Board of Computer Science and Technology on 15/10/24. Students may also find it helpful to note the general guidance on referencing, which can be found here [Referencing | Plagiarism and Academic Misconduct \(cam.ac.uk\)](https://www.cam.ac.uk/referencing-plagiarism-and-academic-misconduct).

Use of AI tools in examination and assessment

AI tools can generate sophisticated output including, but not limited to, program code, natural language text and images. This document gives the department policy on the use of AI tools in assessed work, which includes examinations, ticks, Part II/III/MPhil module assessments, Part II dissertations, Part III/MPhil project reports and PhD progress reports. This complements departmental and university guidance on misconduct and plagiarism; in any case where the use of AI tools for assessed work is permitted by this guidance, their use will not be judged to constitute misconduct or plagiarism.

During examinations, the use of AI tools is not allowed, unless explicitly permitted. This applies regardless of whether the examination is being sat in an exam hall, in College, or in another location under alternative arrangements. It also applies regardless of whether the candidate is writing answers by hand or on a computer.

For other assessed work, the use of local editing and refactoring tools is permitted. For instance, grammar assistants, and tools for debugging code, spell-checkers, and other similar tools, capable of localised improvements at the level of at most a few tokens, are permitted and does not have to be declared. Beyond these limited use-cases, under no circumstances should output generated by AI tools be presented within assessed work as your own, either taken directly or paraphrased, **unless explicitly permitted on the course syllabus page**. For Part II Dissertations and Part III/MPhil Project Reports and PhD Progress Reports, any use of AI tools beyond the policy must be declared as part of the Declaration of Originality. For other assessed work students must submit a signed cover sheet agreeing to an honesty code.

The use of AI tools for background research and general subject understanding is always allowed and does not have to be declared. However, for any use of AI tools, it should be remembered that they may "hallucinate" details or make factual errors, while producing very believable text, and they may also reproduce others' content without acknowledgement. Good academic standards require fact checking for correctness, and where appropriate, citation of suitable sources for any information presented within assessed work.

For all assessed work, the Examiners may use software for detecting AI-generated output. In case of any suspicion of academic misconduct, the examiners will investigate in accordance with University procedures, which may lead to a student being called to a viva, where they will have the opportunity to demonstrate that the submitted work is their own. (Note that vivas may also be required for other assessment reasons.)

If you are unsure whether a particular use of an AI tool is permitted under this guidance, please contact either the undergraduate or graduate teaching offices as relevant:

teaching-admin@cst.cam.ac.uk

acs-admin@cst.cam.ac.uk

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