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SCPTI AI policy

SCPTI Statement: The intention of this policy is to acknowledge the growing presence and use of AI in technology, academia and social media and to establish ethical boundaries and clarity around the acceptable use of AI for written coursework and assessment by students training with SCPTI.

This policy relates to research and written aspects of the training. SCPTI encourages a systemic awareness of our relationship to and dependency upon our environment. This includes the need to acknowledge and be mindful of the rapid growth in the use of generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) models and the substantial environmental impacts associated with this growth. Tools like generative AI (e.g., chatbots, image generators) are growing fast, but they require huge amounts of electricity, data centres, and cooling, which all have real environmental costs (carbon emissions, water usage, etc.).

SCPTI acknowledge that students may sometimes choose to use AI as a tool to support their research and writing process. It is important, however, to recognise that AI should not be used as a replacement for critical thinking and analysis and that the use of AI tools can pose a threat to academic integrity, and organic intellectual growth, even unintentionally.

The following guidelines outline the appropriate use of AI, in relation to all SCPTI submissions, to avoid breaches of academic standards:

- AI cannot be relied on to produce accurate information. It is therefore essential that students check original source material and conduct their own review of relevant literature rather than rely on AI generated content. Be aware that AI generates itself on any information we input, including confidential information such as client work you may be discussing. Confidentiality is of paramount importance when writing about clients or your peers/tutors.

- As AI tools are not always reliable, AI generated output should be regarded as 'according to news reports' of research, not research itself.

- Whilst AI may be helpful as a tool to assist in initial information gathering and to help generate ideas, its use needs to be consistent with a heuristic research model. This requires that the researcher's personal process in relation to the research subject 'leads the way' in

terms of the unfolding direction of the work. New research in Counselling and Psychotherapy is vital for understanding human emotional experiences. AI cannot duplicate real, live time relational contact.

- Students need to ensure that their final submitted assignment is their own creation, analysis and interpretation and is not copied from an AI generator, in whole or in part. AI may be used to analysis grammar, sentence structure, and word usage. These tools help you identify mistakes, enhance clarity, and maintain tone consistency in written work.

- Students need to be aware of the ethical issues that exist with many AI tools related to privacy and data protection. Anything you type into an AI generator is stored so personal information or copyrighted material must not be entered into ChatGPT or another AI model. Doing so would constitute a breach of data protection and would therefore be breaking the law.

- You must avoid sharing information that belongs to SCPTI, i.e. course materials and text written by course leaders, unless you have explicit permission to do so.

Procedures

If you have used AI to help generate your assignment, you will need to:

1. Sign and submit the SCPTI AI Policy Coversheet to indicate that you have read and understood this AI policy.

2. Indicate clearly where in your submission you have used AI-generated material. This needs to be cited and referenced according to the Harvard referencing system, e.g. OpenAI ChatGPT, 2025. If the AI's 'end product' (for example use of ChatGPT in conversation) is only available to you, then you can cite this as a personal communication.

Inappropriate use of AI

If SCPTI is concerned that AI has been used inappropriately in written work, the following process will be followed. The intention is for this to be a dialogical and not an accusatory process.

Where the marker has concerns that AI may have been used in a way that is inconsistent with the SCPTI policy, they will review the work and highlight areas of the text where they have questions. Indicators of inappropriate use of AI may include:

-Repetitive sentence structures and phrases

-Overly complex vocabulary

-Inconsistent tone and style

-Use of 'AI typical' words

-Factual errors

-Words and structures that first language English speakers would rarely use

-Lack of subject matter expertise

-Lack of a coherent narrative

3. If there are doubts about the use of AI generated material, the marker may ask a colleague such as a co-tutor or Course Leader for a second opinion.

4. Where necessary, the student's tutor will arrange to meet with the student to discuss the written work. The tutor will share examples of the text and features of the work that have raised concerns for them. The student is encouraged to explore their own observations in dialogue with the tutor.

The intention of the process is for the student and the tutor to reach a shared understanding of next steps.

It may be decided that:

-AI has been used appropriately, and the work is authentic.

-Some AI has been used due to a misunderstanding on the part of the student as to what could be included, and further work may be required.

-The student has used AI inappropriately and further work is needed.

5. The tutor will write up the conversation and the next steps agreed between both parties.

6. Please note that AI Detection tools won't be used as the measuring tool by SCPTI in assessing written work as these are not always accurate, instead, done in honest dialogue between tutor and trainee.