



UNIVERSITY OF
PORTSMOUTH

Navigating AI Together: Creating a Collaborative Digital Space

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**YOUR TIME.
YOUR PLACE.**

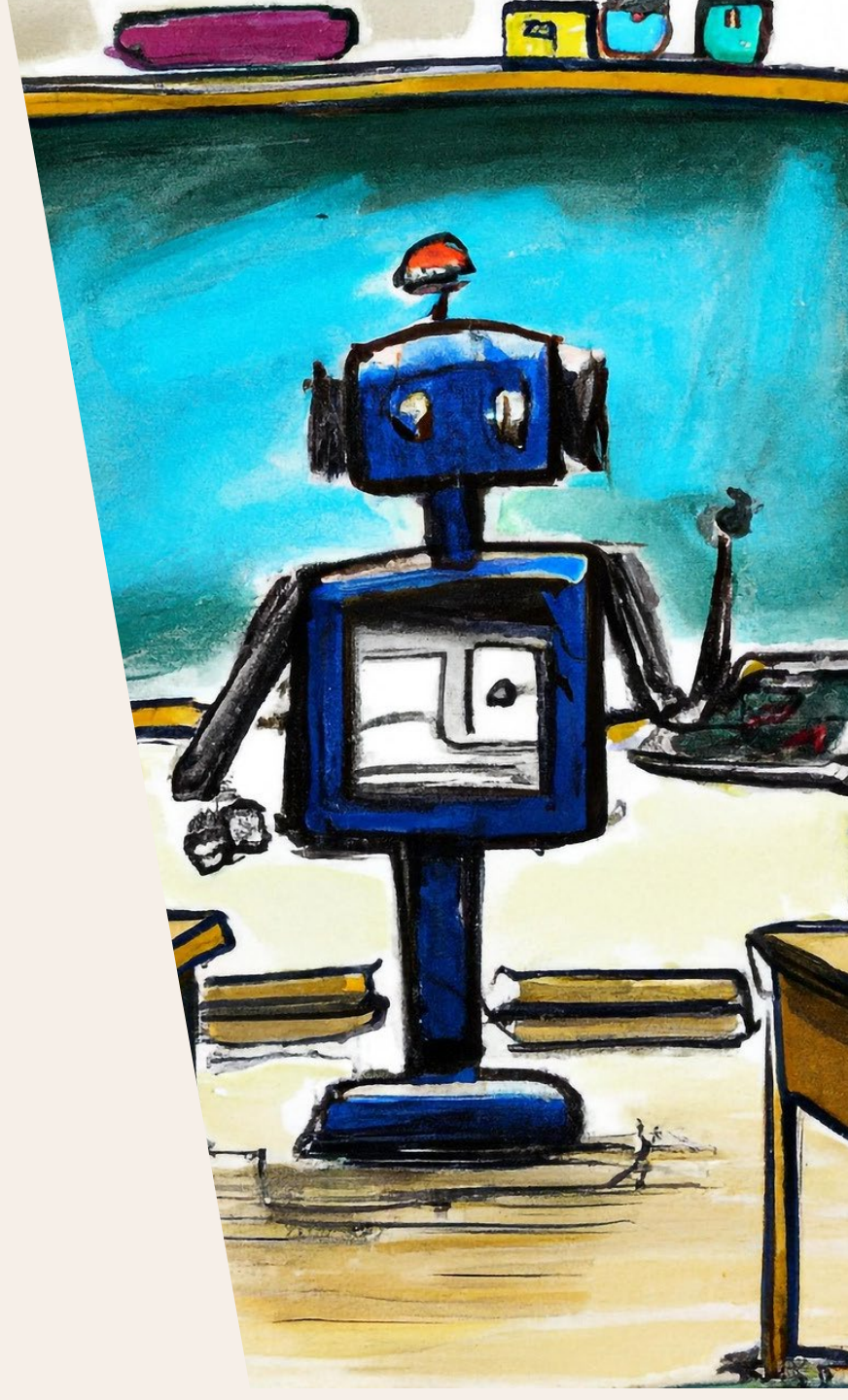
Generative AI (GAI) and Higher Education

“Useful AI has always been around the corner, and yet it never arrives” (Mollick, 2022)

Generative AI (GAI) is a type of artificial intelligence that uses probability to generate new content, including text and images (Government Digital Service, n.d.)

Not generally available → Not great! → Surprisingly OK → Inconspicuously conspicuous

GAI has and continues to develop faster than HE policy and development/training can keep up with.



AI in Research - What words come to mind?

What does AI in research mean to you?

Scan the QR Code using the camera on your device

OR go to menti.com and enter the code:
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Current session

How are
postgraduate...

✓ Found 10
relevant results

Artificial intelligence in developing doctoral students' research competencies
I Oliinyk, O Bulavina, T Romanenko... - Revista ... , 2024 - revistaeduweb.org
Determines the role of artificial intelligence (AI) in developing the research competencies of doctoral students (PhDs).

- **AI Method Development:** Employs a method for using AI in building the research process, which includes searching for information, creating annotated catalogs, and conducting literature reviews.
- **AI for Research Skills:** Involves using AI for creating research algorithms, analyzing data, and exchanging research ideas to enhance research skills.

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Exploring the adoption phenomenon of artificial intelligence technologies by doctoral students within doctoral education

J Oliveira, T Murphy, G Vaughn... - New Horizons in ... , 2024 - journals

Explores how doctoral students experience AI technologies within academic research, using autoethnography, revealing adoption strategies, fear, resistance, feasibility, and support.

- **AI Integration in Learning:** Suggests that the integration of AI technologies into research, along with training strategies and support, can enhance a management strategy for doctoral students.
- **Training Programs Needed:** Advocates for comprehensive training programs that address both technical skills and ethical considerations to facilitate AI adoption in research.

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Developing postgraduate students' competencies in artificial intelligence for ethical integration into academic practice and research

HK Aladsani - Interactive Learning Environments, 2025 - Taylor & Francis

Explains that postgraduate students developed competencies in technical and AI literacy, ethical and legal, critical thinking and academic practices.

- **Methodology for Development:** Used a qualitative participatory action research approach, grounded in Experiential Learning Theory (ELT), to develop students' competencies in academic practices.
- **Data Collection Methods:** Collected data through focus group discussions, interviews, and telegram communications, and symposium data to assess the development of competencies.

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A systematic review of the impact of generative artificial intelligence on research opportunities, challenges, and ethical implications

V Mabinizi, C Katushabe, G Muhoza... - Discover Artificial Intelligence, 2024 - Taylor & Francis

Notes the growing demand for postgraduate researchers' competencies in AI and the need for transformation.

- **Curricula Integration:** Suggests that integrating AI literacy and ethics into research curricula are key components of responsible GenAI adoption.
- **Practical Application of AI:** Highlights the use of generative AI in research tasks, including idea generation, literature review, and data analysis.

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+ New session

Ask a follow-up

GAI - Literacy and Skills in PG Research

Let's see what you think - usefulness vs. guilt?

How effective is GAI for tasks?

How acceptable is it to use it in that way?

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AI: A Continuum



What's the Problem?

- What is the definition of AI usage?
- What counts as AI use e.g. Google Scholar, Grammarly, NotebookLM?
- Can I use text editing tools (e.g. Grammarly)?
- Can I use GAI to summarise journal articles?
- Can I use GAI to write the literature review?
- Can I use GAI to reduce my word count?
- What is inappropriate use of GAI?
- What happens if I use GAI and don't acknowledge it?
- I don't know if I have used GAI what should I do?
- What do I do if I don't use AI at all? Am I at a disadvantage?
- The guidance is focused on undergraduates - this doesn't apply to me!





The PGR AI Forum

- Launched in March/April 2025 with separate in-person and online forums
- Aimed to be a mix of advice with the benefits of the PGR hive brain:
 - Updates on institutional guidance
 - Share ideas
 - Acknowledge uncertainty
 - Ask awkward questions
 - Or, just listen.

On-Campus or On-Line Forum?

- 7 attended in-person, 37 attended online
- Only **three bookings** for the second in-person Forum – why so few?
- Reflected on our experience, and informal PGR feedback following the first 2 Forums
- Moved to online only – potential for greater accessibility and inclusivity but it is not without its challenges.





Outcomes

- Hosted 3 more online PGR AI Forums with average attendance = 21
- Updated guidance and requirement for AI and digital tools statement:
 - Feedback and co-collaboration with PGRs
 - Template statements for common usage
- Developed FAQs - currently 35+ questions
- Responsive approach to existing institutional policies.

What Next?

- Problems persist – hallucinated references, calls for industry specific training, PGR anxiety, supervisor uncertainty
- Information gathering – case studies, exemplar statements, evaluation
- Researcher development community – sharing resources, piloting / co-facilitating:
 - researcher developer AI forum?
 - national PGR AI Forum?
- Come and talk to us – we're happy to chat now or you can email us (doctoral-college@port.ac.uk).



Artificial Intelligence and Digital Tool Statement

Following our own advice, here is our AI and Digital Tools Statement for this presentation:

- This presentation has been created using Microsoft PowerPoint, and the spelling and grammar checks incorporated in it.
- Images in this presentation have been sourced from University of Portsmouth colleagues and the marketing department (with permission) and Pixabay. Some of the images were acknowledged as having been generated using AI.
- To demonstrate the literature review process, Google Scholar Labs, Microsoft CoPilot (institutional licence) and Jenni AI (free version) were used. Videos were captured using the Windows Snipping Tool and edited with Camtasia.
- Mentimeter (institutional licence) was used to create and run the interactive elements of this presentation.

References

- Government Digital Service. (n.d.). *AI Insights: Generative AI (HTML)*. GOV.UK. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ai-insights/ai-insights-generative-ai-html>
- Mollick, E. (2022, November 30). AI has a strategy. *One Useful Thing*. <https://www.oneusefulthing.org/p/ai-has-a-strategy>

Resources

- UKRIO Embracing AI with integrity – A practical guide for researchers (ukrio.org/ukrio-resources/embracing-ai-with-integrity/)
- Ethan Mollick – One Useful Thing Blog (oneusefulthing.org)
- Doctoral College FAQs - contact us!