

## Higher Degree Research (HDR) Guide for Ethical Use of GenAI

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Related Documents	HDR Ethics Policy HDR Examination Policy HDR Responsible Conduct of Research Policy HDR Candidature Policy Academic Integrity Policy HDR GenAI Policy
HESF (Threshold Standards) 2021	1.4.1; 1.4.2; 1.4.3; 1.4.4; 4.1.1; 4.1.2; 4.1.3; 4.1.4; 4.2.1; 4.2.2; 4.2.3; 4.2.4; 6.2.1; 6.2.2; 7.2.1.
Policy Visibility	Public

### 1. Purpose

Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) offers benefits such as language refinement, literature scoping, and idea development. However, its use must align with AIH's commitment to academic integrity, research excellence, and ethical standards.

These guidelines support HDR candidates in responsibly using GenAI tools within their research activities. They supplement AIH policies on Academic Integrity, Research Ethics, and Responsible Conduct of Research.

## 2. Principles

1. Accountability: HDR Candidates are fully responsible for their research, regardless of AI tool use.
2. Disclosure: Always acknowledge the use of GenAI tools in research outputs.
3. Critical Evaluation: AI outputs must be independently verified and never accepted uncritically.
4. Integrity: Using GenAI to mislead, fabricate, or falsify research constitutes misconduct.
5. Privacy and Intellectual Property: Never input sensitive or unpublished data into public AI tools.

## 3. Examples of Acceptable Use

GenAI Use Case	Permitted?	Conditions
Grammar and clarity suggestions	✔ Yes	Must review and edit output manually
Brainstorming research ideas	✔ Yes	Use with caution; document contributions
Drafting thesis content	⚠ Limited	Must be declared; human authorship must dominate
Literature summarisation	⚠ With care	Always verify citations and sources
Uploading confidential data	✘ No	Prohibited without explicit ethics and data governance approval

## 4. How to Acknowledge GenAI Use

In your thesis or publication:

*“Portions of this document were developed with the assistance of [Tool Name, Version], used to support language refinement and conceptual brainstorming. Final content remains the responsibility of the author.”*

In ethics or candidature milestones:

Include a statement detailing the extent, purpose, and platform used for any GenAI assistance.

## 5. Risks to Be Aware Of

- Data Breaches: Inputs into free/public tools may be stored and reused.
- Misinformation: AI can fabricate facts, references, and results.
- Bias: Outputs may reflect the limitations and bias of training data.
- Academic Integrity: Undeclared or excessive use may be treated as plagiarism or misconduct.
- Tabular Data: GenAI can confuse and distort data when asked to present in tabular forms (or interpret data from tabular forms)

## 6. Responsibilities

Students must:

- Declare GenAI use in formal submissions
- Retain copies of original and AI-generated drafts for verification
- Complete AI literacy training in Year 1
- Avoid relying on GenAI in place of critical thinking, data analysis or independent writing

Supervisors must:

- Support and guide ethical use
- Discuss and record agreed AI use at each milestone
- Confirm thesis authenticity before submission

## 7. Additional Support

- AIH Research Training Workshops
- HDR Ethics Policy
- Responsible Conduct of Research Policy
- Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research
- TEQSA and NHMRC Guidelines

## 8. Version Control

Version	Authored by	Brief description of change	Date Approved	Effective Date
2025.1	Dean	Initial release of HDR Candidate Guide for Ethical AI Use in Research	06 August 2025	07 August 2025