

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT AND CONSENT FORM

Investigation of integrating generative AI into the learning and assessment of engineering across Australasian universities



1. What is the research study about?

You are invited to take part in this research study. The research aims to explore the implementation of generative AI tools in engineering education in Australia and New Zealand.

The research questions that this research seeks to address are:

1. What approaches are being used both nationally and internationally to implement generative AI in engineering education?
2. How effective are selected approaches at enhancing student learning?
3. What are student and staff experiences and perceptions with generative AI in the classroom?

2. Who is conducting this research?

The study is being carried out by the following researchers: Dr Peter Neal (Chief investigator, UNSW), Dr Marina Belkina (Co-investigator, WSU), Dr Sarah Grundy (Co-investigator, UNSW), Dr Ghulam Mubashar Hassan (UWA), Dr Rezwanul Haque (U Sunshine Coast) Dr Scott Dainel (UTS), Dr Sasha Nikolic (Co-investigator, UoW), Dr Sarah Lyden (Co-investigator, UTas), Dr Caz Sandison (Co-investigator, UoW).

Research Funder: This research is being partially funded by Australasian Association Engineering Education (AAEE) Committee and all institutions involved.

3. Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria

Before you decide to participate in this research study, we need to ensure that it is ok for you to take part. The research study is looking for people who want to participate in this research who meet the following criteria:

- Students at participating universities (UNSW, UTS, UoW, U. Sunshine Coast, WSU, UWA, UTas).

4. Do I have to take part in this research study?

Participation in this research study is voluntary. If you do not want to take part, you do not have to. If you decide to take part and later change your mind, you are free to withdraw from the study at any stage.

If you decide you want to take part in the research study, you will be asked to:

- Read the information carefully (ask questions if necessary);
- Sign and return the consent form if you decide to participate in the study;
- Take a copy of this form with you to keep.

5. What does participation in this research require, and are there any risks involved?

Focus group: If you agree to participate you will be invited to focus group sessions with other students as part of the discussion data collection process. We will ask you questions based on your experiences with generative AI. This will take a maximum of 60 minutes in-person (at the participating universities (please see in the Section 3 Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria for Universities listing) or on-line platform (Microsoft Teams).

The risks associated with participation is discomfort. The following steps is taken to minimise the risk:

1. Participants can leave the focus group at any time.
2. Participants will have breaks for tea and/or coffee as needed.
3. The participants on-line will have the option to turn off their camera and if in-person will have the option to be seated off-camera, from behind and/or blurred as requested.

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Additional Costs and Reimbursement: There will be a reimbursement for 60 minutes of your time for participation in this study in the form of a prepaid store electronic gift voucher (prepaid visa) to the amount of \$50. The electronic gift card will be sent to you within 5 days after completion of the focus group via the nominated email address in the returned signed PISCF. This reimbursement is for any focus group sessions (in-person or on-line).

6. What will happen to information about me?

By signing the consent form, you consent to the research team collecting and using information about you for the research study. The focus group will be recorded (video and audio), the discussion will be transcribed into another document and all visual data removed by our project officer. The research team will store the data collected from you for this research project for a minimum of 7 years after the completion of the research. The information about you will be stored in a non-identifiable format where your identity will be unknown. Your information will only be shared in a format that will not identify you. Information collected will be stored in following UNSW data management policy and only the approved research investigators will have access to this information.

You will be asked to provide your consent for the research team to share or use the information collected from you in future research that:

- Will be specific to the aims of this research;
- Will be an extension of, or closely related to, the original project; or is in the same general area of research;

The information you provide is personal information for the purposes of the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (NSW). You have the right of access to personal information held about you by the University, the right to request correction and amendment of it, and the right to make a complaint about a breach of the Information Protection Principles as contained in the PPIP Act. Further information on how the University protects personal information is available in the [UNSW Privacy Management Plan](#).

7. How and when will I find out what the results of the research study are?

The research team intends to publish and report the results of the research. All Information will be published in a way that will not identify you.

8. What if I want to withdraw from the research study?

If you do consent to participate, you may withdraw at any time. You can do so by completing the 'Withdrawal of Consent Form' which is provided at the end of this document or you can ring the research team and tell them you no longer want to participate. Your decision not to participate or to withdraw from the study will not affect your relationship with UNSW Sydney or any of the collaborating institutions involved in this research. If you decide to leave the research study, the researchers will not collect additional information from you. You can request that any identifiable information about you be withdrawn from the research project.

9. What if I have a complaint or any concerns about the research study?

If you have a complaint regarding any aspect of the study or the way it is being conducted, please contact the UNSW Human Ethics Coordinator:

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Complaints Contact

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Position | UNSW Human Research Ethics Coordinator |
| Telephone | + 61 2 9385 6222 |
| Email | humanethics@unsw.edu.au |
| iRECS Project Number | iRECS5789 |

10. What should I do if I have further questions about my involvement in the research study?

The person you may need to contact will depend on the nature of your query. If you require further information regarding this study or if you have any problems which may be related to your involvement in the study, you can contact the following member/s of the research team:

Research Team Contact Details

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Name | Dr Peter Neal |
| Position | Chief investigator |
| Telephone | +61 (2) 9385 4814 |
| Email | peter.neal@unsw.edu.au |

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Consent Form – Participant providing own consent

Please indicate your preference for mode of participation (cross which does not apply):

IN-PERSON / ON-LINE

Email address (for reimbursement): _____

Declaration by the participant

- I understand I am being asked to provide consent to participate in this research study;
- I have read the Participant Information Sheet, or someone has read it to me in a language that I understand;
- I understand the purposes, study tasks and risks of the research described in the study;
- Recordings: I understand that the research team will video and audio record the focus group; I agree to be recorded for this purpose.
- I provide my consent for the information collected about me to be used for the purpose of this research study.
- I have had an opportunity to ask questions and I am satisfied with the answers I have received;
- I freely agree to participate in this research study as described and understand that I am free to withdraw at any time during the study and withdrawal will not affect my relationship with any of the named organisations and/or research team members.
- I provide my consent for the information collected about me to be made available to other researchers as described at section 6 of this document.

Participant Signature

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Name of Participant | |
| Signature of Research Participant | |
| Date | |

Declaration by Researcher*

- I have given a verbal explanation of the research study; its study activities and risks and I believe that the participant has understood that explanation.

Researcher Signature*

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Name of Researcher | |
| Signature of Researcher | |
| Date | |

*An appropriately qualified member of the research team must provide the explanation of, and information concerning the research study.

Note: All parties signing the consent section must date their own signature.

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Form for Withdrawal of Participation

I wish to WITHDRAW my consent to participate in this research study described above and understand that such withdrawal WILL NOT affect my relationship with The University of New South Wales or any of the participating institutions involved.

I am withdrawing my consent and I would like any identifiable information collected about me which I have provided for the purpose of this research study withdrawn.

I am withdrawing my consent to participate in further components of this research and provide my permission for the research team to retain and/or use information collected about me which I have provided for the purpose of this research.

I am withdrawing my consent and I understand that any information already published and/or not linked to my identity cannot be withdrawn from the research.

Participant Name

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Name of Participant (please print) | |
| Date | |

The section for Withdrawal of Participation should be forwarded to:

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| CI Name: | Dr Peter Neal |
| Email: | peter.neal@unsw.edu.au |
| Phone: | +61 (2) 9385 4814 |
| Postal Address: | School of Chemical Engineering The University of New South Wales NSW, 2052 |