



## Generative Artificial Intelligence

### A message to students at SIHE

As you are likely already aware, the use of a chatbot called ChatGPT dominated news headlines late 2022 and early 2023. Here at Sheridan we want to build a culture of transparency around the use of artificial intelligence and so we are inviting input from students and staff as we consider how to navigate our way forward. This journey will involve defining the boundaries of the space within which we are moving. As time goes by we will need to revisit this space as the technology continues to advance and our knowledge continues to grow.

#### *Let's start with some facts:*

##### **1. What is ChatGPT?**

"GPT" stands for Generative Pre-trained Transformer. ChatGPT is a large language model (LLM) developed and trained by Open AI, a San Francisco-based research lab and company. ChatGPT is a brand of Generative Artificial Intelligence (also known as GenAI).

##### **2. Apart from ChatGPT are there other types of GenAI?**

Yes! Some are text-based like ChatGPT. Others types can generate art or music. Some are now embedded within search engines. Doubtless many other brands and types are emerging as we speak!

##### **3. What can Generative AI do?**

GenAI is programmed to use a set of data to generate text in response to a given prompt. It has the capacity to produce definitions, provide answers to questions, and generate lists on a given topic. The text is generally well structured and easy to read. It is also quite formulaic and basic (at this stage). It is possible to use GenAI to draft an email, create a form, compose a speech or a policy, create code, translate language, provide feedback on a sample of writing, and much more.

##### **4. Where does ChatGPT draw information from?**

ChatGPT is s programmed to extract information from a diverse range of sources, including, but not limited to websites, textbooks, and research papers. It also accesses data from online forums, social media, news articles, and reports as well as GenAI user interactions and feedback.

##### **5. What can't Generative AI do?**

GenAI cannot think! It cannot reason, debate, analyse, or critique.

##### **6. Are there privacy concerns? Is my data stored?**

Yes. Open AI stores data that users input and receive from ChatGPT. This collection also includes email addresses, IP addresses, and when users use the system. OpenAI also advises against inputting confidential matters into the chatbot.

*Here's where we're heading at Sheridan:*

### **1. Can I use Generative AI when completing assignments?**

There is limited capacity for GenAI to be used with assignment preparation. Check with your lecturer regarding specifics.

### **2. Are there dangers of using Generative AI?**

Yes. If the answers are not contained within the data set then GenAI has a tendency to invent "facts" also known as "hallucinations". Also, GenAI does not have the capacity to filter bias and so material produced may not be accurate or even coherent. Another limitation is that current data sets do not necessarily include the most up-to-date information. For example, the current model of ChatGPT can only reference material up to September 2021.

### **3. Do I have to reference use of Gen AI?**

Students are expected to declare use of Gen AI, otherwise it is considered academic misconduct (aka cheating). *Specifics to follow*

### **4. What if I don't want to use Generative AI?**

If the assessment requires use of GenAI and/or if a class activity requires use of GenAI but you have a personal stance not to use it then please speak with your lecturer. *(You may possibly be given an alternative task or be supported to participate with another student).*

### **5. Can I have input to Sheridan's approach regarding Gen AI?**

Yes! We are hoping to set up consultation opportunities so the Sheridan student voice can be heard. Stay-tuned!

*The bottom line:*

Students and staff in higher education around the globe are currently coming to terms with the challenges and opportunities being presented by recent advances in GenAI. Large language models such as ChatGPT may provide a compelling appearance of understanding content (and even display what appears to be expressions of emotions) but we must remember the programmes are built to access data sets in order to predict what a human might say.

There is no law against using GenAI. However, as lovers of truth and seekers of wisdom who are innovative thinkers and effective communicators our desire is for Sheridan students and staff who choose to use GenAI that they do so wisely and ethically. Let's explore this space together and develop guidelines and supports that will help us to do this well.

**NB:**

If you are willing to share your thoughts and ideas please email them to Dr Natalie Leitão (nleitao@sheridan.edu.au) and/or make a time to meet for a chat.

You are also welcome to make a time with Natalie for her to show you how ChatGPT works.