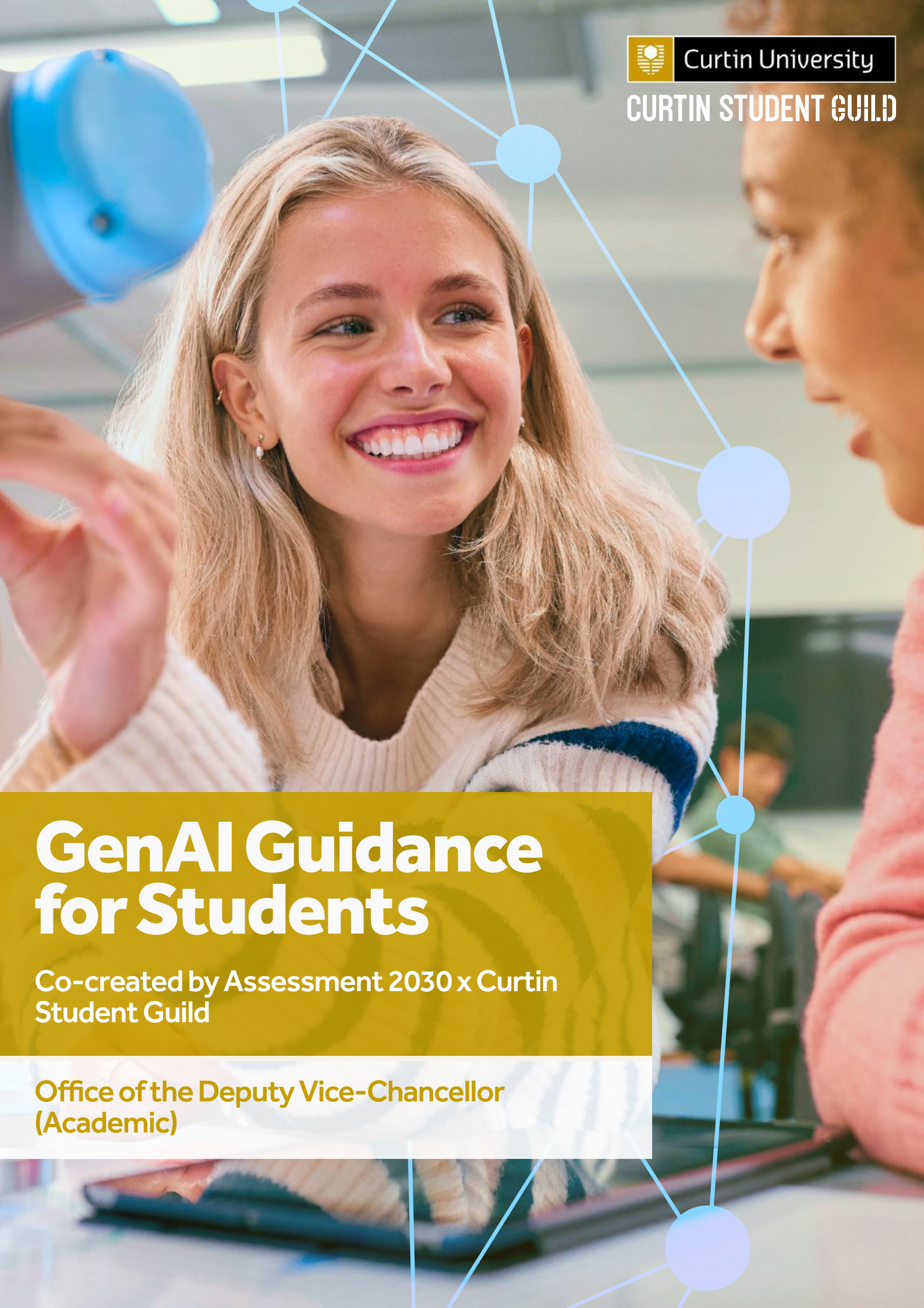


Curtin University

CURTIN STUDENT GUILD

GenAI Guidance for Students

Co-created by Assessment 2030 x Curtin Student Guild

Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)



Our other Assessment 2030 resources:

Assessment 2030’s Strategic Planning Document

GenAI Guidance for Curtin Educators

Curtin's AI Curriculum Capability Guide

Sustainable Marking in the Age of AI

Writing Learning Outcomes

Designing Lane 2 Assessments

Understanding Exams at Curtin

Inclusive Assessment Guide

And more! To learn about Assessment 2030, visit our **website** to discover how educators across Curtin are reimagining assessment for tomorrow's learning.



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Acknowledgement of Country

Curtin University acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, the First Peoples of this place we call Australia, and recognises them for caring for Country for more than 60,000 years. We are honoured and grateful for the privilege to maintain campuses in Boorloo (Perth) and Karlkurla (Kalgoorlie). We pay our respects to Elders past and present as Custodians and Owners of these lands. We recognise their deep knowledge and their cultural, spiritual and educational practices, and aspire to learn and teach in partnership with them.

We also acknowledge First Nations peoples connected with our global campuses. We are committed to working in Partnerships with all Custodians and Owners to strengthen and embed First Nations' voices and perspectives in our decision-making, now and into the future.



Introduction

Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) tools like ChatGPT are increasingly part of our lives. As a Curtin student, it is important for you to understand how they can or cannot be used within your academic responsibilities.

This guide explains how you can use GenAI appropriately and confidently, in line with assessment requirements. It outlines when its use may be suitable, how to declare it where required, and where to seek clarification or support.

Please note that GenAI tools can help assist your learning, but they are not a substitute for your own thinking. You must remain responsible for what you submit, including verifying all outputs.

What's changed for 2026

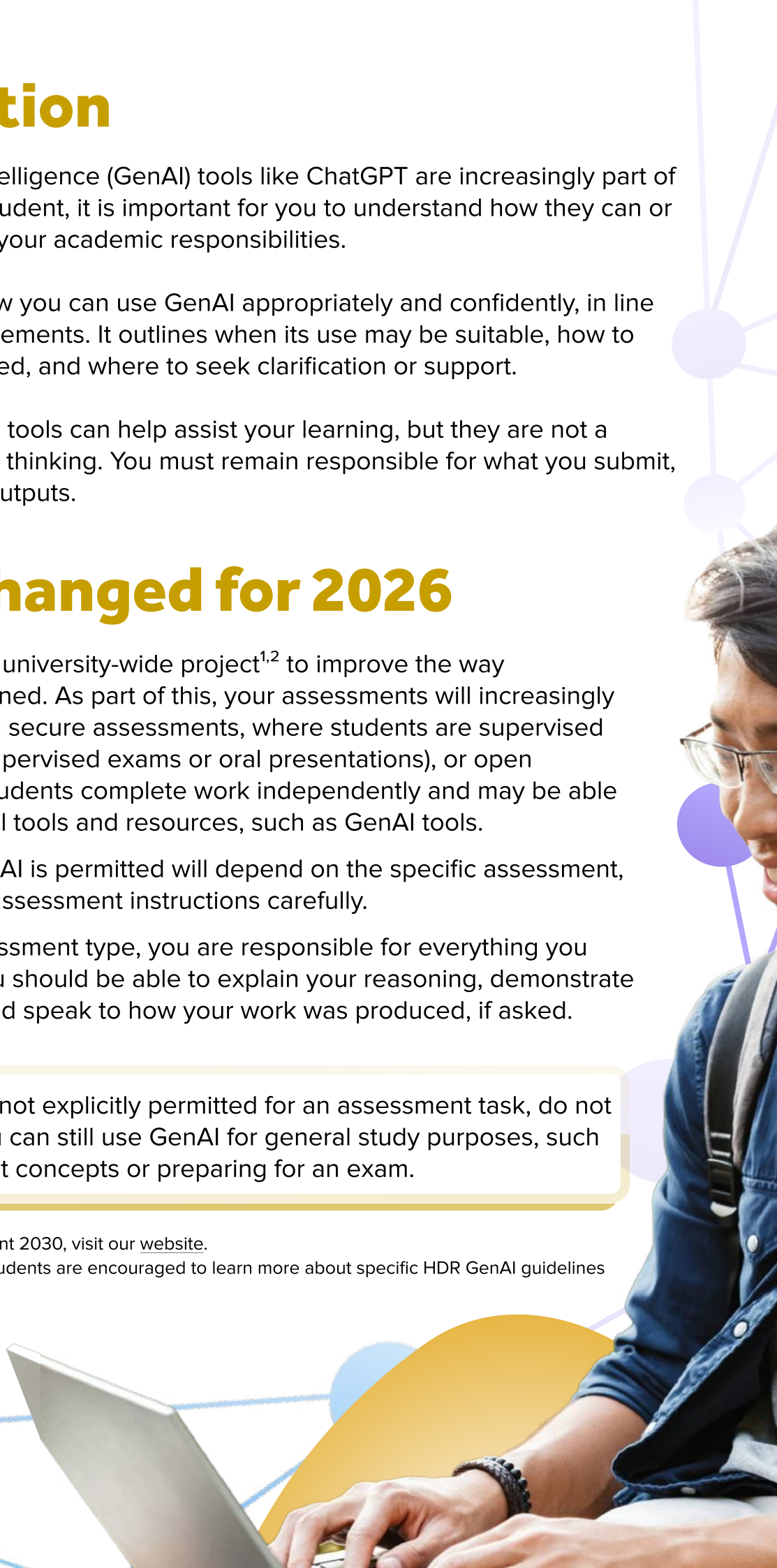
Curtin is undertaking a university-wide project[1,2] to improve the way assessments are designed. As part of this, your assessments will increasingly fall into two categories: secure assessments, where students are supervised during the task (e.g., supervised exams or oral presentations), or open assessments, where students complete work independently and may be able to use a range of digital tools and resources, such as GenAI tools.

However, whether GenAI is permitted will depend on the specific assessment, so always check your assessment instructions carefully.

Regardless of the assessment type, you are responsible for everything you submit. This means you should be able to explain your reasoning, demonstrate your understanding, and speak to how your work was produced, if asked.

Caution: If GenAI is not explicitly permitted for an assessment task, do not use it. **However,** you can still use GenAI for general study purposes, such as explaining difficult concepts or preparing for an exam.

[1] To learn more about Assessment 2030, visit our website.
[2] Higher Degree by Research students are encouraged to learn more about specific HDR GenAI guidelines here.



What do I do if...

I am not sure whether I can use GenAI for an assessment?

Check your assessment instructions carefully before using any GenAI tool. Your educator should clearly indicate whether GenAI use is permitted or prohibited for each task. If you cannot find this information, reach out to your unit coordinator for clarification.

You may wish to keep a written record of any advice you receive. In the unlikely event that a concern is raised about how you completed your work, having this record will support your position.

I want to use GenAI to study or prepare for an assessment?

You are permitted to use GenAI for study purposes, such as explaining difficult concepts, practising problems, or creating flash cards to prepare for exams. If you are unsure whether it is appropriate to use GenAI for a specific task, check with your unit coordinator or the Library.

Always be mindful of what you enter into GenAI tools. Avoid uploading content you do not have permission to share and never enter personal, confidential, or sensitive information. This includes your own details, information about other students, and any data collected during placements or fieldwork. Data entered into GenAI tools may be stored or used to train future models.

I was told I could use GenAI, but how do I declare it?

Be transparent about when and how you have used GenAI, particularly in work that will be assessed, published, or shared with others. Follow any declaration requirements set out in your assessment instructions.

If no specific format is provided, the Library's GenAI UniSkills modules include guidance on how to acknowledge and reference your use of GenAI appropriately.

What if I'm asked about my work?

In all assessment tasks, students must be accountable for their submission, verify all outputs, and be able to defend their work. This means you should understand everything in your submission, be able to explain your reasoning and decisions, and discuss how you produced the final product.

Educators may ask you to walk through your work as a normal part of the assessment process, whether or not GenAI was involved. The goal is to confirm that you understand and can speak to what you have submitted.

If you are unable to demonstrate that the work is your own, this may be treated as academic misconduct (see Academic Integrity Current Students for more information).

I'm worried the GenAI output might be wrong, biased, or contain fake references?

GenAI can produce content that is inaccurate, biased, or entirely fabricated. This includes references that look real, but do not actually exist. Always verify that every source you use is real and supports the claims you are making. If you have not read it yourself, do not reference it.

Always cross-check facts against reliable sources and search for references in the Curtin Library catalogue or Google Scholar to access them directly. If you cannot find a source, do not use it.

Being able to critically evaluate information, spot errors, and judge what to trust is one of the most valuable skills you will build at university. It is essential in every profession, whether the source is GenAI, a colleague, or a published article. Practising this now will serve you well beyond your degree.



Caution: Submitting work with fabricated references is academic misconduct, regardless of whether GenAI was used. **However,** GenAI can be a great tool for learning referencing formats (e.g., APA) or practising academic writing.

I don't want to use GenAI?

In most instances, assessments where GenAI use is permitted, using it is optional. You will not be penalised for choosing not to use it.

Some assessments may specifically involve engaging with GenAI, for example, critiquing or evaluating its outputs. In those cases, the task itself requires interaction with the tool, and your unit coordinator will make this clear.

Other students have access to better GenAI tools than I do?

We recognise that students have varying levels of access to GenAI tools. In assessments where GenAI use is permitted, educators have been advised to ensure that grading criteria does not reward submissions that can only be achieved with premium or paid tools.

If you have reasonable grounds to believe an assessment disadvantages students without access to paid platforms, you can raise this with your unit coordinator or the Curtin Student Guild. All students have access to a premium version of Grammarly. Find out more on the Library's website.

If you need access to a computer to complete your work, check with your local campus library as computer access varies by campus.

Can I enter personal or sensitive information into a GenAI tool?

No. Data entered into GenAI tools may be stored, shared, or used to train future models. Do not enter your personal information, information about other people, or any confidential data, including patient, client, or student records collected during placements or fieldwork.

Be equally careful with copyright and intellectual property. Do not upload Curtin materials such as lecture recordings or assessment questions, or other materials you do not have permission to share.



I'm finding that I rely on GenAI for everything. Is that a problem?

Yes. GenAI cannot replace disciplinary knowledge, professional judgement, or critical thinking. These are the capabilities your degree is designed to develop, and they are what employers and professional bodies expect when you graduate.

If you find that GenAI is doing the thinking rather than supporting it, that is a sign to step back. Working through difficult material yourself is where the learning happens, and it is what builds the expertise that will distinguish you professionally.

Curtin has a range of free support services that can help, including:

- UniSkills through the Curtin Library offers online modules, workshops, and resources to help you strengthen your academic writing and study skills
- Peer Academic Mentors, who can support you with academic skills, referencing, and more, either on campus or online
- Student Wellbeing Advisors, who offer free and confidential support if you are struggling with study or personal challenges
- You can also speak directly with your educator or unit coordinator if you are unsure where to start.

I think there has been an academic integrity issue?

If you have concerns about academic integrity, whether your own or someone else's, Curtin has a dedicated resource to help you. Visit the Academic Integrity at Curtin site for information, guidance, and next steps.

Academic integrity concerns can be confidentially reported through the Dixon Webform, which is available to students, staff, and members of the public. For questions related to student conduct, you can also contact the Office of the Academic Registrar at sco@curtin.edu.au.





Your rights and protections

Curtin is committed to ensuring that GenAI policies are applied fairly and consistently. If you believe an assessment requirement relating to GenAI is unclear, unreasonable, or has been applied inconsistently, you have the right to raise this through the appropriate channels.

- Start by speaking with your unit coordinator or educator
- If the matter is not resolved, contact the Curtin Student Guild for advice and advocacy support
- Formal complaints can be lodged through Curtin's student complaints process.

You should not be penalised for using GenAI in a way that was permitted by the assessment instructions, nor should you be expected to use tools that require paid subscriptions to meet assessment requirements.

Resources and support

- GenAI UniSkills (Library) - guidance on appropriate use, prompting techniques, output verification, and academic integrity requirements
- Appropriate Use of GenAI Technologies - student-facing guidance on what constitutes appropriate use
- Academic Integrity at Curtin - information on academic integrity expectations and processes
- Grammarly Authorship - a tool your educator may encourage you to use to gain insight into your writing process
- Student Assist - a support and advocacy service of the Curtin Student Guild available for all Curtin students

If you have questions about GenAI expectations in a specific unit or assessment, speak with your unit coordinator or educator in the first instance.

For more information about Assessment 2030, visit the Curtin Assessment 2030 website or contact Assessment2030@curtin.edu.au.

If you're facing any challenges around defending your work or navigating GenAI policies, please don't hesitate to reach out.

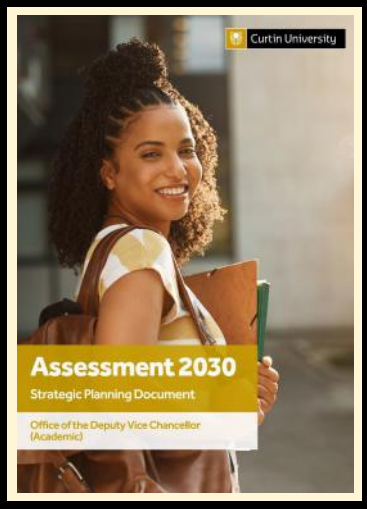
There are resources available to help you understand your rights and advocate for yourself.



For more information

To learn about Assessment 2030, visit our website and view our Strategic Planning Document.

Discover how educators across Curtin are reimagining assessment for tomorrow's learning. Explore our Educator Case Studies to see real case studies and practical examples.



Contact us at Assessment2030@curtin.edu.au

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