

Universities New Zealand Sector AI Position Statement

This position statement outlines the New Zealand universities' common approach to the responsible use of artificial intelligence noting that each university is an autonomous institution and will determine its own policies, guidance and implementation arrangements.

1. Purpose

This statement provides a high-level, public-facing position on the use and adoption of artificial intelligence across New Zealand universities.

2. Sector position

New Zealand universities recognise that AI is now part of education, research, work and society.

AI can support and accelerate learning, creativity, research and productivity. It also creates risks, including inaccurate information, bias, privacy breaches, misuse of intellectual property, academic misconduct, environmental impacts and loss of trust in qualifications and research.

New Zealand universities are committed to using AI ethically and transparently. AI should support and enhance human judgement, not replace human accountability. In addition to this Position Statement each university will have their own detailed framework and policies available on their own website.

3. Shared principles

New Zealand universities are guided by the following principles.

a. Human accountability

People remain accountable for the work they submit, teach, assess, publish or rely on.

b. Academic and research integrity

Academic and research integrity are paramount. AI use must not misrepresent a person's learning, authorship, contribution, evidence or research findings.

c. Transparency

Students, staff and researchers should be clear about when and how AI has been used.

d. Privacy and confidentiality

Privacy and confidentiality of information shall be maintained and protected when AI tools are used. Data that is personal, confidential, prepublication, sensitive or culturally significant shall be protected.

e. Fairness and inclusion

Universities shall endeavour to ensure that AI is used in ways that are fair and inclusive and Universities remain alert to bias, unequal access and differing impacts on students, staff and communities.

f. Research

Researchers remain accountable for AI-assisted research. Use of AI should be declared in accordance with ethical requirements and the requirements of relevant universities, publishers, and funders.

g. Governance and risk

AI shall be governed according to the level of risk. Uses that may affect assessment outcomes, research findings, student progression, employment, personal, culturally significant data, confidential information, or significant decisions about people, require appropriate controls and human review.

4. Sector commitment

New Zealand universities will continue to share good practice, develop common language where useful, and review this position as AI technologies and their uses evolve.

This position supports responsible innovation while protecting learning, integrity, fairness, privacy, human judgement, research quality and public trust.