

B&FC – Student/Apprentice Statement on the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

There has been a rapid development of generative AI software recently and this has been the subject of significant news coverage.

B&FC is committed to the ethical and responsible use of generative AI and to preparing our students and apprentices to be leaders in an increasingly AI-enabled world.

B&FC wish to ensure that generative AI tools can be used for the benefit of students, apprentices and staff – enhancing teaching practices and student learning experiences, ensuring students develop skills for the future within an ethical framework, and enabling educators to benefit from efficiencies to develop innovative methods of teaching.

Engaging with AI for education and Assessment

The use of AI tools, for example ChatGPT, poses challenges to making sure student's and apprentice's work is their own. However, in keeping with best practice from other education providers, B&FC will look to encourage the use of AI in an ethical way that ensures academic integrity and standards are upheld. This will be achieved through ongoing discussion between students/apprentices and staff to identify the benefits and drawbacks of using AI software.

It is important that students and apprentices do not use AI tools to generate assessments which they then submit as if it were their own work. However, there may be circumstances where generative AI may be engaged to support developing assessments; although it should be noted that there are still many weaknesses in generative AI software so it may not always be accurate. If students or apprentices use generative AI such as ChatGPT to gain information directly then it must be referenced as a source.

Generative AI software by design is constantly evolving so B&FC will seek to continually develop the support it provides to students and apprentices to use AI effectively and ethically. At B&FC no students or apprentices should suffer digital accessibility issues. The B&FC Learning Resource Centres (LRCs) can assist in providing digital resources and support.

For further guidance students and apprentices are asked to refer to the following:

AI GUIDANCE NOTES FOR STUDENTS & APPRENTICES

1. Understanding AI in Your Studies:

As a student or apprentice, you might wonder how AI relates to your studies. AI is a tool that can support your learning process, from accessing information on techniques and materials to exploring the latest professional standards or emerging academic research. Think of AI as an assistant that can provide quick answers and suggestions, but remember, it's your hands-on skills and critical thinking abilities that are crucial.

2. Using AI Responsibly:

While AI can be a great source of information and support, it's important to use it responsibly. Always cross-check the information provided by AI with reliable sources, such as your course materials, textbooks, or instructors. AI can sometimes generate incorrect or outdated information, so verifying its outputs is key.

3. AI and Academic Integrity:

Respect academic integrity by using AI as a supplementary tool rather than a source for completing your assignments. If you use AI to assist with your coursework, such as generating ideas for a project or understanding a concept, be transparent about it. Discuss with your lecturers how to appropriately acknowledge the use of AI in your work.

4. Enhancing Skills with AI:

AI can help you enhance your understanding of academic or practical concepts. Use it to explore different aspects of your studies, such as regulations, key theorists and themes, or to get inspiration for your projects. However, always remember that the practical application of these knowledge, skills and behaviours is what counts in your chosen area of study.

5. Preparing for an AI-Integrated Future:

The world is evolving with technology. Familiarising yourself with AI now will prepare you for future advancements in your chosen field. AI can offer insights into new techniques, materials, research trends, the law and practical matters such as safety standards or professional framework, keeping you ahead in your trade.

6. Balancing AI and Hands-On Learning:

While AI provides theoretical knowledge and updates, your chosen profession or vocation is perfected through practice. Balance the information from AI with hands-on training, applied research, and practical experience. Use AI as a tool to support, not replace, your physical training and/or academic research.

7. Navigating Misinformation:

Be aware that AI can sometimes generate inaccurate 'hallucinations' or fiction. Always use critical thinking when assessing information provided by AI, and when in doubt, consult your teachers or trusted industry sources.

8. Continuous Learning:

The AI landscape is constantly changing. Stay informed about new AI tools and developments that could impact your field. However, prioritize developing your core bricklaying skills, as these remain fundamental to your chosen sector.

9. Ethical Considerations:

Be mindful of the ethical implications of AI in the workplace. Understand that while AI can assist in various tasks, it should not replace human judgment, especially in critical decision-making areas that help move your sector forward.

10. Seeking Support:

If you have questions about using AI in your studies or need guidance on how to integrate AI tools responsibly, don't hesitate to reach out to your teachers or the College's support services, available in Student Life centres.

Remember, AI is a rapidly evolving field, and this guidance will be reviewed periodically to reflect the latest developments and best practices.