



Title: Artificial Intelligence Ethics and Research Integrity Policy

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Gulf University adheres to all laws, regulations, resolutions, and instructions issued by the Higher Education Council and to all applicable national regulatory frameworks in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

1. Purpose

The purpose of this document is to describe the ethical, responsible, and effective use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in research and innovation at Gulf University. It details principles to accomplish scholarly research, publication, and various other AI-assisted research activities by academic staff and students at GU, ensuring transparency, accountability, and data integrity.

2. Scope

This document applies to all academic staff, visiting academics, and students at Gulf University who utilize AI tools and technologies in their research and innovation activities.

3. Acronyms

GU	Gulf University
HEC	Higher Education Council
AI	Artificial Intelligence

4. Definitions

Artificial Intelligence (AI): Artificial Intelligence refers to computer systems or software capable of performing tasks that typically require human intelligence, including but not limited to generative AI, machine learning models, and automated decision-making systems.

AI Research Ethics: The practice of incorporating essential values such as respect for persons, beneficence and non-maleficence, justice, transparency, accountability, privacy, and integrity in all stages of artificial intelligence research, design, development, deployment, and evaluation.

Research Integrity: The active adherence to the ethical principles and professional standards essential for the responsible practice of research.

AI-Assisted Research: Any research activity where AI tools are utilized to gather, analyze, process data, or assist in the drafting and publication of scholarly work.

Researcher: An academic staff member or a visiting academic at Gulf University undertaking AI-assisted research at the University.

Student: Any individual who is formally registered in a program offered by Gulf University and engages in research.

Intellectual Property (IP): Products of creative and intellectual processes as a result of undertaking research conducted at, or in association with, Gulf University, such as discoveries, inventions, writing, designs, software, and other outputs.

5. Policy Statement

Gulf University recognizes that Artificial Intelligence is reshaping scholarly research and innovation and allows its responsible use to advance knowledge creation and research productivity, while maintaining that AI shall not replace human intellectual contribution, critical judgment, and ethical reasoning. AI shall be employed in research only where methodologically justified, ethically reviewed, and transparently disclosed, with researchers bearing full accountability for the validity and integrity of their outputs. All AI-assisted research shall uphold honesty, rigor, and reproducibility, and comply with applicable national regulatory frameworks. Researchers and students shall declare AI use in their work, maintain appropriate documentation, and subject research involving human or sensitive data to ethics review. Gulf University shall ensure equitable access to approved AI tools, promote AI research literacy, and provide the necessary training and support for responsible use in research and the advancement of knowledge for the benefit of society.

6. Policy Details

- 6.1 Gulf University ensures that the integration of AI in research aligns with the with “Bahrain Economic Vision 2030”, the National Innovation Strategy, and “HEC National Research Strategy”.
- 6.2 Gulf University commits to complying with the provisions of “Act No. 22 of the Year 2006” relating to the Protection of Copyright and Neighboring Rights in the Kingdom of Bahrain, and “Act No. 12 of the Year 2008” amending article 13 of Act No. 22 of the Year 2006.
- 6.3 Gulf University complies with Bahrain’s Personal Data Protection Law (PDPL) and ensures that all AI activities protect user privacy. Uploading internal, confidential, or sensitive personal data to public AI platforms without prior consultation is strictly prohibited.
- 6.4 Gulf University encourages a responsible AI research culture that demonstrates:
 - Ethical behavior and accountability in AI-assisted research.
 - Honesty, transparency, and integrity in declaring AI usage.
 - Acknowledging the credibility of others and mitigating AI biases.
 - Effective and accurate communication of research findings, avoiding AI-generated hallucinations or misrepresentations.
- 6.5 Gulf University commits to reviewing the ethical aspect of AI-assisted research conducted by staff and students. Any research utilizing AI for processing human data, personal data, or producing results for publication shall be reviewed critically by the ethics committee.

- 6.6 GU is committed to ensuring that AI tools operate in a manner that is fair, non-discriminatory, and respects the rights of all individuals. Critical decisions involving AI must include human oversight to ensure accuracy and fairness; AI tools should assist, not replace, human judgment.
- 6.7 GU ensures that the rights of researchers and participants are maintained, including the obligation not to disclose any confidential information to unauthorized AI systems.
- 6.8 GU ensures that the design and impact of AI-assisted research outcomes do not have a detrimental effect on the environment, provoke cultural and ethnic sensitivity, or cause discrimination at any level.
- 6.9 Gulf University commits to supporting ethical AI research through its resources, providing training and workshops on responsible AI use, risk awareness, and bias mitigation.
- 6.10 Gulf University commits to funding AI research and innovation activities from its own budget in accordance with the regulations of HEC.
- 6.11 Gulf University ensures a clear and transparent mechanism for the expenditure of the AI research budget, subject to regular audits.
- 6.12 Gulf University encourages interdisciplinary research teams to explore innovative AI applications while adhering to this policy framework.
- 6.13 Gulf University commits to developing quality AI research in collaboration with stakeholders in the community and other research institutions and encourages the commercialization of its AI innovations through links with industry.
- 6.14 Gulf University commits to reflecting AI research on education through linking and research activities with curriculum development, ensuring students are prepared for an AI-integrated academic landscape.
- 6.15 Gulf University ensures the timely and responsible dissemination of AI-assisted research findings, requiring clear disclosure of AI tools used in publications, journals, theses and conferences.

7. Responsibilities

Researchers and Students are responsible for:

- Following this document appropriately.
- Disclosing the use of AI tools in their research and publications.
- Ensuring human oversight and verifying the accuracy of AI-generated content.

Head of departments and Deans are responsible for:

- Appropriate implementation of this document.
- Monitoring the ethical use of AI within their departments.

University Research Council is responsible for:

- Ensuring all academic staff and students are fully informed of this document.

- Appropriate implementation of this document.

Vice President for Academic Affairs is responsible for:

- Appropriate implementation of this document.

University Council is responsible for:

- Appropriate implementation of this document.

Finance Department is responsible for:

- Appropriate implementation of this document.

University Policy Development and Review Committee is responsible for:

- Systematic review of the effectiveness of this policy.

8. Related Policies

- Research Policy
- AI Governance and Oversight Policy

9.Related Procedures

- Conduct of Research Procedures
- AI Governance and Oversight Procedures

10.Related References and Standards

BQA	Institutional Review Handbook
BQA	National Qualifications Framework Handbook
HEC	Academic Regulations and Resolutions