



Copyright and Generative AI (GenAI): a guide for students

GenAI tools can help with your study for brainstorming ideas, summarising information, or explaining topics in simple terms. However, you are responsible for following your subject rules and academic integrity requirements; and you also need to be careful about copyright and privacy when using GenAI.











Uploading or copying content into GenAI tools can break copyright rules. You should also avoid sharing personal, private, or confidential information in GenAI tools, especially if the tool uses what you enter to improve or train the system.





The table below provides you with a guide on what you need to consider before uploading or sharing copyright material in both 'public' or 'private' GenAI tools.

“Public” AI models refer to GenAI tools that are often available and free. These models tend to be trained on content added or uploaded by users.

“Private” GenAI models are those that run in a secure and protected environment. Often these models involve an additional subscription and/or settings that ensure shared material is not being used for model training or platform improvements

This guide should be read in conjunction with [Copyright and Generative AI](#) webpage.

Type of content	Public AI	Private AI	Description/Conditions
Public Domain (no copyright)			Public domain material includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Materials where copyright has expired Works that creators have explicitly released into the public domain Uncopyrightable works such as facts, ideas and certain types of data
Copyright materials where you have permission to use			Any material in which you have written permission to use from the copyright owner.
Materials that you have created			This covers all materials which you have created, with some exceptions. The following should not be uploaded to any AI tools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where you have included 'third party' copyright material within your own work (e.g. an image created by someone else) Materials you have published (e.g. article) where copyright is owned by the publisher and uploading to AI is not permitted Other contractual agreements e.g. from industry or funding where ownership is shared. Check your agreement/s.
UTS owned materials			This covers materials created by UTS staff, such as course materials and lecture slides, documents and website content. Any generated content from UTS owned materials should not be publicly shared, and only used for UTS purposes, or for personal study and research.
Open licences such as Creative Commons (CC) licencing			Creative Commons materials can be used for certain purposes with GenAI tools; however, some uses may be limited depending on the licensing elements involved. All CC licenced materials incorporated into GENAI outputs will require attribution To determine whether and when you need to comply with Creative Commons license terms when using CC licenced content for AI use, see the Creative Commons Flowchart

Type of content	Public AI	Private AI	Description/Conditions
Digital material available from the UTS Library subscription platforms (e.g. e-journals, e-books etc.)			<p>This includes any materials accessed via UTS's Library catalogue or databases.</p> <p>In general, publishers do not allow their content to be used by GenAI</p>
Freely available web content (webpages or images) or scans of print material such as digital copies made from print/physical books or journals			<p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a scanned copy from a print/physical material such as book chapters and articles. Uploading content from freely available web content such as webpages or images. <p>Only a reasonable amount (1 chapter or 1 article) can be used in Private AI systems for your own personal research or study purposes. See Manage Your Content for limits and conditions.</p>

Additional information

Always remember to [acknowledge and/or reference your use of AI](#)

Refer to [GenAI Learning Resources](#) for guidance on how to use GenAI tools to help with your learning.