

Teagasc Policy for use of AI in Teagasc Education Programmes

Address Queries to	Head of CDSU
Published on www.teagasc.ie	Yes
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Approved by, Date	Teagasc Academic Council 02/12/2025

1. Purpose of the Policy

This policy aims to support the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) tools in Teagasc Education training programmes in a manner that is academically honest, ethically responsible and aligned with Teagasc values and regulatory obligations, including those set out in the EU AI Act and Ireland's National AI Strategy. This policy is in line with the Teagasc AI policy.

The purpose is to promote the responsible, ethical and effective use of AI in both learning and assessment, ensuring that its deployment enhances educational integrity and innovation.

2. Applicability

The Policy applies to all Teagasc Education training programmes. It applies to all staff and contractors involved in delivery and assessment, and to all learners enrolled in these programmes. It includes all forms of teaching and assessment, both formative and summative.

This policy applies to:

- All programmes leading to a QQI award
- Any Teagasc training programmes where assessment is an integral part of the course, whether accredited or un-accredited.

This Policy will be:

- Published on the Teagasc website
- Referenced in documents where relevant, including programme materials, assessment guidelines and learner handbooks

3. Policy Statement

Teagasc recognises the potential of AI tools to enhance learning, foster critical thinking and support the development of digital literacy. This policy promotes the use of AI by both staff and learners in an academically honest, ethically responsible and learner-centred approach, while upholding standards of academic integrity, transparency, and fairness.

The following principles underpin this policy

Fairness

AI tools must be used in a way that complies with legislation and upholds fairness and does not disadvantage others. This includes:

- Complying with GDPR and relevant data protection legislation. Learners and staff must not input personal information into public or third-party AI systems without consent of the data owner.
- Avoiding unfair advantages in assessments or assignments through the misuse of AI tools.
- Ensuring that AI-generated content does not misrepresent a learner's knowledge or effort or contribution.
- Respecting intellectual property and avoiding plagiarism or data misappropriation.

Transparency

Transparent use of AI tools promotes trust, supports academic accountability and enables informed evaluation of learning. Learners and staff must be clear and open about the use of AI in academic work by :

- Disclosing the specific AI tools used (e.g. ChatGPT, Copilot).
- Declare and clearly identifying AI generated content.

Consistency

Teagasc promotes consistent expectations and standards across all programmes. When using AI tools:

Learners are expected to:

- Adhere to policies and procedures on the use of AI tools.

- Comply with guidance from staff and understand acceptable and prohibited use of AI tools.
- Be aware that course AI detection software may be used to validate learner assessments
- Understand that penalties for the breach of Teagasc assessment policies apply to the misuse of AI tools
- Accept consequences for any misuse of AI under Teagasc policy.

Staff are expected to:

- Support learners in the responsible and effective use of AI tools
- Undertake training to maintain an appropriate level of AI literacy.
- Adapt assessments so they remain robust in an AI-enabled learning environment.

Validity

AI tools must not undermine the academic purpose of learning activities or assessments.

Learners must ensure that

- Their work reflects their own understanding, rather than relying on AI generated output
- AI supports, not replaces independent academic effort.
- AI-generated content is critically reviewed by learners and checked for accuracy, relevance and context before inclusion.

Staff must ensure:

- Ethical use of AI by themselves and learners.
- Support the use of AI to enhance learning
- Reference the use of AI and comply with copyright requirements.

This approach safeguards the integrity of learning and ensures that AI remains an aid to, rather than a substitute for, genuine academic endeavour.

Reliability

All users of AI in Teagasc education must take responsibility for:

- Verifying the accuracy and relevance of AI-generated content.
- Fact-checking content for accuracy and relevance.
- Avoiding biases or stereotypes in AI-generated material.
- Using reliable and trusted sources of information.
- Referring concerns on the misuse of AI to appropriate management.

Learner-Centred Approach

AI should serve to enhance learning, foster personal development, summarise complex topics and generate ideas. Learners should be provided with instruction on the use of AI tools and resources that build AI literacy and critical thinking.

To build essential AI literacy and critical-thinking skills, learners will be provided with access to guidance and resource materials that cover:

- The fundamentals of how AI works and its educational applications
- Best practices for interpreting and evaluating AI outputs
- Strategies for integrating AI tools into independent study and group work.

This ensures that AI is not only a practical aid, but also a catalyst for deeper understanding and lifelong learning.

Enforcement:

Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary actions for learners under Teagasc's academic integrity regulations. Learners are encouraged to consult staff whenever uncertain about acceptable AI use.

4. Policies and Procedures that Support this policy

- Processes and procedures related to this policy are accessible via the Teagasc Education homepage under Quality Assurance. Access via this [link](#)
- Staff delivering Teagasc training programmes must be aware of this policy and implement its procedures.
- At the start of Teagasc programmes, learners must be made aware of this policy, its procedures and impacts.
- This policy recognises that staff and learners have a role in the assessment process and must have regard to this policy.
- This policy will be reviewed (31/03/2027) and as and when necessary.

5. Definitions and Terms

EU AI Act	A legal framework on AI, which addresses the risks of AI and positions Europe to play a leading role globally.
Ireland's National AI Strategy	Ireland's National AI Strategy us a strategy that aims to position Ireland as a leader in the ethical and beneficial use of artificial intelligence for both its economy and society. https://enterprise.gov.ie/en/publications/national-ai-strategy.html
QQI	Quality and Qualifications Ireland (www.qqi.ie)
AI Tool	Any digital system or platform that uses machine learning or algorithmic models to generate, assist with, or evaluate content — e.g. ChatGPT, Grammarly, Microsoft Copilot.
Learners	Any person registered on a Teagasc training programme
Formative	Formative assessment is assessment for learning and normally doesn't count towards a learners final grade.

Summative	Summative assessment is formal assessment in Teagasc and is conducted as directed by the module specifications assessment section.
EU AI Act	Full text of the AI Act: Regulation (EU) 2024/1689 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 laying down harmonised rules on artificial intelligence and amending previous legislation.

6. Revision History

Revision date	Version	Summary of Changes
31/10/2025	0.3	Revised 31/10/2025
16/06/2025	0.2	Revised by CDSU
18/03/2025	0.1	Initial draft (John Leamy)