Guideline on the usage of AI (Artificial Intelligence) in our course

"Waseda LL.M. in Asian Economic Integration and Law"

March 2023

I   Purpose of Writing Academic Papers (term paper, research paper, thesis, etc.)

1. In academia, including our LL.M. course, academic papers are the result of the author's research and writing expressed in their own words, per established academic style and rules of writing. Our LL.M. course embraces these academic ethics, promoting them through our classes and research guidelines.

2. One of the classic violations of this academic ethics is "plagiarism." Plagiarism is defined as: " [T]he act of passing off the information, ideas, or words of another as your own, by failing to acknowledge their source—an act of lying, cheating, and stealing."[1]

3. On the other hand, studying and learning from previous academic works is essential to produce new knowledge and writing academic papers. Thus, to avoid plagiarism, the distinctions between borrowed knowledge and the author's contribution must be clear in writing and presentation. This is typically achieved through the proper use of quotations and citations in footnotes/endnotes. Our LL.M. course offers a mandatory "Legal Research and Writing" class where students learn these rules and put them into practice.

II   Usage of generative AI in academic research and writing

4. Copying and pasting the text generated by a generative AI, or using the text generated by the AI with only minor lexical modifications, does not count as original writing, even when indicated. Straight or modified use of AI-generated sentences in academic papers runs counter to our educational purpose and academic ethics in general.

5. Generative AI includes Chatbots (e.g., ChatGPT) that generate automatic answers in response to specific questions or instructions by the user.

6. Generative AIs' quality is expected to improve, and the scale/quantity of their answer to expand in the coming years. However, their current overall academic quality remains basic at best and does not fit our educational goals. While AI can be a powerful tool, one of our LL.M.'s main goals is to help students develop critical thinking skills adequate for an international interdisciplinary environment. Therefore, our LL.M. course does not accept the usage of generative AIs for writing papers (including term and research papers).

III   Translation software in academic research

7. Automatic translation software, such as DeepL or Google Translate, is not currently banned in our course, as they can be valuable tools for research when used correctly. However, their use is strongly discouraged as it might impair acquiring the required skills to analyze legal materials in a foreign language (such as Japanese). At the same time, it is strongly advised to seek verification by native speakers whenever possible. Academic responsibility lies with the author, regardless of whether translation software was part of the research process.

Graduate School of Law, Waseda University

---

[1] Gordon Harvey, *Writing with Sources: A Guide for Students* (3rd ed., Hackett Publishing, 2017), p. 37.