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Lecturer in Computing Sciences, Associate Professor in Accounting, Associate Professor in Health Sciences

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BRA(AI)N - Building Resilience and Accountability in Artificial Intelligence Navigation

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET (SIMPLIFIED)

What is this study about?

You are invited to take part in a research study exploring how students and staff in universities use Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) tools (e.g. ChatGPT or DeepSeek); the challenges of teaching and assessments, and whether people might become over reliant on these tools

You are being invited to take part in this study because you have an interest in the use of GenAI tools in universities. We need:

1. **Undergraduate students** (over 18 years old) willing to complete a take-home assessment in computer coding, or accountancy, or health. They may also be invited to participate through a questionnaire and/or in one-to-one interviews and/or a focus group discussion and/or co-design workshops.
2. **Staff** (including post-graduate student assessors) willing evaluate those student assessments. They may also be invited through a questionnaire and/or for one-to-one interviews and/or a focus group discussion and/or co-design workshops.
3. **Higher Education stakeholders** willing to participate in interviews and may also join the through questionnaires and/or in focus group discussion and/or co-design workshops to provide institutional perspectives.

Your first-hand experiences and critical evaluations are invaluable for our research, which aims to explore the multifaceted role of AI in academia. By sharing your insights, you will help us understand both the benefits and challenges associated with these technologies, thereby contributing to the development of informed, ethical guidelines for their effective integration in educational practices. We sincerely appreciate your willingness to contribute to this important investigation.

This Participant Information Sheet tells you about the research study. Knowing what is involved will help you decide if you want to take part in the study. Please read this sheet carefully and ask questions about anything that you don't understand or want to know more about.

Participation in this research study is voluntary. By giving consent to take part in this study you are telling us that you:

✓   Understand what you have read.
✓   Agree to take part in the research study as outlined below.
✓   Agree to the use of your personal information as described.
✓   Have received a copy of this Participant Information Sheet to keep.

ETH2425-1497

(1) Who is running the study?

The study is being carried out by the following researcher(s):

Dr Farhana Ferdousi Liza, Lecturer in Computing Sciences, University of East Anglia.
Dr Shoaib Ahmed, Associate Professor in Accounting, University of Sussex.
Dr Katherine Deane, Associate Professor in Health Sciences, University of East Anglia.

The findings will be compiled into a comprehensive report, which will be shared with key stakeholders, including Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and relevant governmental bodies within the United Kingdom. By disseminating these insights, we aim to foster a deeper understanding of the implications of AI technologies in education and support evidence-based decision-making. Furthermore, we intend to produce and publish peer-reviewed academic articles based on the study's outcomes, ensuring that the knowledge generated reaches a broader academic audience and contributes to ongoing research in this field.

What will the study involve for me?
As a participant in this study, you will be invited to take part in study activities, completing a brief assessment, a semi-structured interview, through an questionnaire, focus group study and co-design workshops designed to explore your thoughts, experiences, and perspectives on AI technologies. Please see the details below. Your participation will take place either in person at the University of East Anglia or University of Sussex premises or remotely via a secure online platform such as Microsoft Teams, depending on your preference and convenience.

Phase One: Mock Assessments
This study's first phase focuses on recruiting students and staff to explore the role of GenAI in academic work. Registered university students from diverse disciplines will complete a take-home mock assessment, showcasing their engagement with GenAI tools. Their submissions will then be evaluated by staff, offering insights into academic assessment practices and the impact of GenAI on student learning.

- **Student Participation:** At least 40 students will complete a take-home assessment. They will be able to choose to use GenAI tools (e.g. ChatGPT and DeepSeek) in the completion of the assessment. Questions will be shared in advance, and responses must be submitted within the given timeframe. You will be asked to screen record as you complete the assessment. The assessment will take no more than 1 hour to complete.
- **Staff Participation:** At least 10 educators from diverse disciplines will voluntarily assess these student submissions at their convenience. This evaluation will provide insights into academic perceptions of GenAI's impact on student work and assessment practices. The marking will take no more than 1 hour to complete.

Phase Two: In-Depth Interviews
The second phase of the study will involve one-to-one interviews with students and staff who participated in the assessment process. These interviews will provide a more detailed exploration

of their experiences, perspectives, and decision-making processes regarding the use of GenAI in academic assessment. Participants can refuse to answer individual questions.

- **Student Interviews:** We will engage students in semi-structured interviews to examine their approaches to integrating GenAI into their assignments. We will explore how socio-economic and cultural backgrounds influence their decision-making, their methods of validating AI-generated content, and their preparedness for scenarios where GenAI may be unavailable or restricted. The interview will last 1 hour.
- **Staff Interviews:** Academic staff involved in the evaluation process will also participate in semi-structured interviews to share their insights on GenAI's impact on student work, academic integrity, and assessment methodologies. The interview will last 1 hour.

During this interview, you will be asked a series of open-ended questions aimed at gaining a deeper understanding of your experiences with AI technologies, particularly in academic or professional settings. There are no right or wrong answers, and there are no trick questions—our primary aim is to gather your honest insights and reflections. Throughout the discussion, the researcher will take notes and/or audio record the interview, then use auto-transcription (e.g., MS Teams) and/or use Transcription company/individual to ensure that your responses are accurately captured. Your participation is entirely voluntary, and you are free to decline to answer any question or withdraw from the study at any time without consequence.

Additionally, in this phase, we will conduct interviews with at least 10 UK-based HE stakeholders, including university administrators, policy experts, and representatives from regulatory bodies. These discussions will focus on institutional policies, philosophies, and resilience strategies related to the adoption of GenAI. Through these conversations, we aim to understand the broader academic and ethical landscape surrounding AI in HE, including attitudes of reliance, resistance, and accountability. Again, these interviews will last 1 hour and will be audio recorded.

Phase Three: Questionnaire, *Focus Groups and Co-design Workshops*
To further enrich the findings, we will conduct a **focus group discussion (FGD)** and **co-design workshops (CDW)** with a diverse group of participants and/or a **questionnaire**, comprising:
- **7 or more students**
- **5 or more educators**
- **3 or more HE stakeholders**

This session will take place in person at the University of East Anglia (UEA) premises or virtually using video calls. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in a collaborative exchange of perspectives guided by the attached Interview Moderator Guide and Co-Design Workshop Tentative Plan. The researchers may use Generative AI generated contents as part of the focus groups such as Turing Test. These focus groups and workshops will last between 1 and 2 hours. Refreshments will be provided for in person attendees to ensure a comfortable environment for meaningful dialogue.

Participation in the study is entirely voluntary, and all participants have the right to withdraw at any stage without needing to provide an explanation.

How have we made this project accessible to you?
The project website will be fully accessible (W3C compliant) and compatible with screen readers. The demographic survey is hosted on the JISC platform which again is fully accessible and compatible with screen readers. If you would prefer to participate in hard copy format, we can

provide this for you in standard or large print format. All the venues for face-to-face interviews, focus groups and workshops will be fully accessible. We can provide the use of a portable hearing loop if required. If you have any additional access needs, please let us know.

Access to Participants' Personal Information

We will need to ask for information about you for this research project. This information will include your answers given during the assessments, interviews, questionnaires, focus groups, and workshops, your age, gender, ethnicity, disability, education, and socioeconomic status. The research team will use this information to check that we have a wide range of perspectives informing this research. People who do not need to know who you are will not be able to see your name or contact details. Your data will have a code number instead (it will be anonymised). We will keep all information about you safe and secure. Once we have finished the study, we will keep the anonymised information and may share it with other researchers where relevant. We will write our reports in a way that no-one can work out that you took part in the study.

Data security
- **Restricted Access**: The research data will be accessible only to members of the research team who have undergone training in data protection and confidentiality protocols. No external individuals or organisations will have access to participants' raw data.
- **Secure Storage**: All collected data will be stored on encrypted, **secure servers** that comply with institutional and regulatory data security standards. Regular audits will be conducted to ensure adherence to access control measures.
- **Ethical Dissemination of Findings**: In all publications, reports, and presentations, careful attention will be given to ensuring that no details are included that could indirectly reveal participant identities, particularly in small or niche educational institutions.

Data Management

Ensuring the security and confidentiality of your data is of the utmost importance to us.
- Paper copies of notes and consent forms will be securely destroyed once the data is transferred to the secure UEA server.
- The data will be stored on a secure UEA server, and the original data will be deleted from the survey platform by 04/02/2026.
- Participant contact details will only be accessible to the project team and deleted after the data collection period ends (i.e., by 04/02/2026). After this point all data will be anonymised.
- All project data will be deleted from the UEA shared drive ten years after the end of the project (by 04/02/2036).
- Only anonymised data will be shared externally, such as in reports and publications and with other interested researchers.
- We may deposit the anonymised data in a repository (e.g., UK Data Achieve (UKDA)). The collected data will be stored and shared for further research by other researchers following UK government's safety and security procedures.
- Our data management practices adhere to the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA 2018), the UK General Data Protection Regulations (UK GDPR), and the University of East Anglia's Research Data Management Policy.

In addition to the specific information provided above about why your personal data is required and how it will be used, there is also some general information which needs to be provided for you:

- The data controller is the University of East Anglia.
- For further information, contact the University's Data Protection Officer at dataprotection@uea.ac.uk.
- You can learn more about your data protection rights at the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).
- If you have any concerns about how your data has been used, please contact the University's Data Protection Officer at dataprotection@uea.ac.uk in the first instance.

Participant Review of Information

Upon completion of their research participation, interview, questionnaires, focus group, or workshop, participants will receive a full transcript of their conversation as soon as it becomes available. This will allow you to review the document carefully to ensure that it accurately reflects your words.

If you wish to modify, clarify, or expand upon your responses, you are encouraged to edit the transcript and return it to the research team within 2 weeks of being sent the transcript. Corrections after this time cannot be accepted as the data will be started to be analysed. Your feedback is highly valued, and any necessary revisions will be incorporated to ensure your contributions are represented faithfully and accurately.

Do I have to be in the study? Can I withdraw from the study once I have started?

Being in this study is completely voluntary and you do not have to take part. If you decide to take part, you are free to withdraw **at any stage of the study**, without providing a reason and without facing any negative consequences. Your decision whether to participate will not affect your current or future relationship with the researchers or anyone else at the University of East Anglia and University of Sussex now or in the future.

You can withdraw from the assessment or interview at any time. You can refuse to answer individual questions in the interview. If you withdraw from the project, you can decide if you wish us to delete all data and information about you. However, we need you to let us know that you have withdrawn within 2 weeks of the assessment or receipt of the transcript of your interview. If you do not let us know in that time period, your data will be anonymised and started to be analysed, and we will not be able to extract it from the dataset. If you decide to withdraw from the focus groups and/or workshops you will need to do so prior to the start of these events. Once recording starts it will not be possible to identify and extract your responses from the rest of the group's responses. You can of course leave the focus group and/or workshop at any time. You will be provided with a transcript of the focus group and/or workshop, and you are free to edit the text as you see fit. Again, edits must be returned to the research team within 2 weeks for them to be integrated into the data.

It is important to note that if you have used any AI tools to help prepare your answers or evaluate the assessments, the data inputted or generated by these tools **cannot be removed** from the AI systems themselves. While this does not affect the confidentiality or anonymisation of your personal data in the study, any traces of your use of AI tools may remain within the tool's own records or systems and may be used in AI model training.

Are there any risks or costs associated with being in the study?
This study is being conducted solely for academic purposes**,** with the goal of contributing to research in the field. We are not discussing sensitive issues and do not anticipate that the research activities will be upsetting to any of the participants.

Participants will receive financial incentives and other forms of compensation to acknowledge their time, expertise, and contributions. These incentives will adhere to ethical research practices, ensuring fair compensation while maintaining transparency and compliance with financial regulations.

Registered University Students: Each undergraduate and postgraduate participant will receive a £25 honorarium per hour for completing activities and tasks, such as written assessments, follow-up interviews, focus group study and co-design workshops. This payment recognises their time commitment and encourages participation.

University Academic Staff: Academic staff evaluating student submissions and participating in interviews, focus groups and co-design workshops will be compensated at £33 per hour, ensuring fair recognition of their expertise and time investment.

Stakeholders from Educational, Business, and Policy Sectors: External stakeholders will not receive financial payments, as their involvement is based on professional interest.

All participants will have reasonable expenses, such as travel costs, reimbursed where applicable to prevent financial burden. Additionally, food and refreshments will be provided during in-person focus groups, workshops, and interviews, fostering an inclusive and supportive research environment.

Potential benefits to others in the future or to the broader community
This research is undertaken solely for academic purposes, with the aim of providing valuable insights to both the academic community and policymakers. It will have no direct benefit to the individual participants. The primary goal is to develop a sustainable and ethical framework for integrating AI into HE. The findings will be used to generate recommendations, which will be shared with project partners, UK HE institutions and policymakers for informed decision-making.

What if I would like further information about the study?
When you have read this information, Dr Farhana Ferdousi Liza (email: F.Liza@uea.ac.uk)*,* will be available to discuss it with you further and answer any questions you may have about the study.

Will I be told the results of the study?
You have a right to receive feedback about the overall results of this study. You can tell us that you wish to receive feedback by checking a box on the consent form and providing your e-mail address. This feedback will be in the form of a summary report or published article. This feedback will be once the data analysis is finalised and within few months of the study's completion.

What if I have a complaint or any concerns about the study?
If there is a problem please let me know. You can contact me via the University at the following address:

Dr Farhana Ferdousi Liza

School of Computing Sciences
University of East Anglia
NORWICH NR4 7TJ
F.Liza@uea.ac.uk

If the issue remains unresolved, you can contact the Head of Department

Professor Beatriz De La Iglesia
School of Computing Sciences
University of East Anglia
NORWICH NR4 7TJ
B.Iglesia@uea.ac.uk

Ethics Approval
This research has undergone a thorough review by a Research Ethics Committee at the University of East Anglia to protect your safety, rights, well-being, and dignity. The Faculty of Science Research Ethics Subcommittee approved this study under reference ETH 245-1497.

OK, I want to take part – what do I do next?
You need to fill in one copy of the consent form and *send us via email (F.Liza@uea.ac.uk).* Please keep the letter, information sheet and the second copy of the consent form for your information.
Further information
This information was last updated on *16th March 2025.*

If there are changes to the information provided, you will be notified by email or any other preferred methods.

This information sheet is for you to keep