

Does Using ChatGPT or AI Tools Improve Student Performance at Exeter?

This anonymous survey is part of a research project for the ECM443 Introduction to Data Science module at the University of Exeter. The study explores how students use ChatGPT or other AI tools and whether this affects their academic performance.

Consent Notice: Participation is voluntary and anonymous. No personal identifiers are collected. By completing this survey, you consent to the use of your responses for research purposes only.

Data Protection: All responses are stored on encrypted University of Exeter servers and analysed in anonymised form, in line with UK Data Service (UKDS) and GDPR principles of data minimisation and privacy-by-design.

Section 1: Demographics

1. Degree Programme:					
2. Year of Study:					
3. Gender:					
4. Frequency of AI Tool Use (e.g. ChatGPT):					
5. Main AI Tool Used:					

For the following sections, please rate each statement on a scale from 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 5 (Strongly Agree).

Section 2: Technical Understanding (TU)

Statement	1	2	3	4	5
I understand how AI tools like ChatGPT generate responses.					
I know how to use AI tools effectively for academic tasks.					
I am confident navigating different AI platforms.					
I can identify limitations in AI-generated outputs.					

Section 3: Critical Appraisal (CA)

Statement	1	2	3	4	5
I can critically evaluate AI-generated content for accuracy.					
I verify AI-generated answers with reliable academic sources.					
I can identify when AI outputs contain bias or errors.					
Using AI tools helps me improve my analytical thinking.					

Section 4: Practical Application (PA)

Statement	1	2	3	4	5
I apply AI tools to improve the quality of my coursework.					
AI tools save me time in completing academic assignments.					
I use AI tools to brainstorm ideas or improve writing clarity.					

Section 5: Self-Efficacy (SE)

Statement	1	2	3	4	5
I feel confident using AI tools independently.					
I can troubleshoot problems when AI tools don't perform as expected.					
I believe AI tools enhance my learning experience.					

Section 6: Output Quality (OUT)

Statement	1	2	3	4	5
AI tools help me produce higher quality work.					
My assignments are clearer and more structured with AI support.					
AI feedback improves the overall quality of my submissions.					

Section 7: Academic Performance (AP)

Statement	1	2	3	4	5
My grades have improved since I began using AI tools.					
AI tools have increased my confidence in academic performance.					
AI usage has made me more efficient in completing assessments.					

Section 8: Open Feedback

1. In what ways has ChatGPT (or AI tools) most helped you in your studies?	
2. What limitations or challenges have you experienced when using AI tools for learning?	

Instrument Sources

Variable	Source
Technical Understanding (TU)	Laupichler et al. (2023)
Critical Appraisal (CA)	Laupichler et al. (2023)
Practical Application (PA)	Laupichler et al. (2023)
Self-Efficacy (SE)	Carolus et al. (2023)
Output Quality (OUT)	Venkatesh (2000); Jan & Contreras (2016)
Academic Performance (AP)	Adapted for study context

Footer: ECM443 Research Proposal – Survey Instrument | University of Exeter (2025)