

AI & Ethics in Arts and Humanities

These tools were developed for arts and humanities research, but the underlying questions apply across all roles. Whether you prepare teaching materials, write reports, manage data, or support students, if you use AI in your work, this framework helps you think clearly about how and why.

Tiers of AI Use – Where does your work sit?

Tier	Disclosure/Documentation	Research	Teaching	Professional Services
Tier 0 Minimal	No disclosure needed (if using approved systems)	Spellcheck, formatting, grammar tools	Slide polish, caption correction	Document formatting, email grammar checks
Tier 1 Assistive	Brief disclosure in methods; minimal prompt log	Summarising, drafting suggestions, search refinement	Lesson plan drafts, reading list summaries	Report drafts, meeting summaries, policy overviews
Tier 2 Substantive	Full documentation: prompts, model version, bias check, validation	Analytic contribution: coding, pattern detection, large-scale generation	AI-generated assessment criteria or feedback; curriculum design	Automated data analysis, AI-assisted decisions about people
Tier 3 Development	Full reproducibility protocol with code and data provenance	Training or fine-tuning models	Building custom AI tools for student use	Developing or procuring AI systems for institutional use

Reflection Prompt

Think of a current or recent piece of work where you used AI or considered using it or actively decided not to.

1. Which Tier does it sit in?
2. What did you use AI for - or why did you choose not to?
3. Which checklist question (right) gives you most pause?

Key question across all roles: “Where does human oversight occur, and who is accountable for the output?”

The right to not use AI is also part of this conversation.

Ethics & Risks Checklist

For any substantive AI use (Tier 2+), consider:

Purpose	Why is AI being used here? What would be lost - or gained - without it? What alternatives were considered?
Tool identification	Which model or tool is being used? What version and date?
Data provenance	What data will the tool access or process? Is the training data source known?
Data protection	Does this involve personal or sensitive data? What are the legal safeguards? GDPR considerations?
Bias & fairness	What biases may exist in outputs? Who could be harmed or excluded?
Human oversight	Where does human review occur? Who is accountable for the final output?
Reproducibility	How will you record what the AI did so others (or your future self) can understand it?
Sustainability	Have you considered the environmental cost? Is it proportionate to the benefit?
Disclosure	How will AI use be disclosed in outputs, publications, or communications?