International Students Perspective on AI and Academic Integrity

International Student Success Series 2025

April 3, 2025. 12.30 pm – 1pm on Zoom

Sponsored by the [International Student and Scholar Office](https://global.unl.edu/isso) and the [Center for Transformative Teaching](https://teaching.unl.edu/)

In this panel session, international students and faculty explored the complexities of understanding academic integrity with the rise of AI. The participants discussed how international students view AI and academic integrity and offered strategies for instructors to navigate these concerns.

Panelists:

Dr. Andrew Hanna, Assistant Professor of Management, College of Business

Dr. Milad Roohi, Assistant Professor, Durham School of Architectural Engineering & Construction

Samay Bhojwani, Undergraduate student (2nd year) in Computer Science

Ilya Shcherbakov, PhD student in Educational Studies with a specialization in Innovative Learning Technologies

Moderator: Angela Bryan, Associate Director, International Student Support

# Defining AI Policies and Using AI

* Students pointed out that it can be difficult to define academic integrity, especially if they come from cultures with different perspectives on what constitutes plagiarism.
* They said that AI can be an effective “helper” but only if used in addition to the work done by students themselves. Some international students consider it an appropriate language tool in most courses, but not in actual language courses.
* Instructors pointed out the challenges that AI use posed in their courses. They acknowledged the benefits of using AI in some assignments but emphasized the importance of critical thinking and the knowledge of the subject when one uses it.
* In essence, academic integrity is about honesty, responsibility, and fairness. We need to ask ourselves what boundaries we need to set up with the use of AI and what we can do to use it for leveraging the knowledge that we have.
* Instructors stated that including a clear AI policy in the syllabus helps them define the expectations for the students. They also admitted that a policy of banning AI use entirely is a losing battle.
* When it comes to the use of AI by the international students, some instructors would rather see a shorter text produced by a student themselves rather than a longer text generated by AI. Expectations for length/complexity might need to vary when it comes to international students.
* Another area of concern when it comes to AI is publishing, and it needs to be addressed in discussions with students.

# Communicating and Maneuvering AI Policies

* Students indicated that there is quite a bit of variation in how much AI use is allowed in courses. If AI is just mentioned but the rules are not clearly defined on the syllabus, it’s confusing for the students.
* Many international students come from countries where AI is not widely used, so they don’t have a clear idea of what type of AI use is allowed under the student code of conduct.
* Students hope for a university-wide policy regarding AI to provide consistency across courses.
* Sometimes the language on AI is confusing. Students suggest that other formats of explaining AI policy would be beneficial, like a TikTok video.
* Instructors note that there are some discrepancies in how instructors and students understand how much effort should be put into work. Therefore, the use of AI might hurt their work and progress in the course.
* In addition to communicating AI policies via syllabus, some instructors started adding a “professionalism score” that addresses the use of AI.

# Final Notes

* Students expressed a strong interest in assignments for which AI can’t be used and that have real-world applications.
* There is still quite a bit of inconsistency between courses regarding the use of AI. It makes it difficult to follow the instructions and keep up with the rules.
* There needs to be more transparency when it comes to academic integrity for the international students, especially when it comes to the countries with different copyright regulations. It will improve the experience that international students have in American academia.