Let's talk GenAI - A practical and collaborative approach to introducing Gen AI to staff and students

Name of Institution/Organisation

University of Limerick

Who led the initiative?

Michelle Breen, Head of Learning & Engagement, Glucksman Library, UL (led the staff-focused Let's Talk GenAI course)

David Moloney, Digital Skills Development Lead, Centre for Transformative Learning, UL (led the student-focused Gen AI Essentials lesson and workshop)

Date and timeframe of the initiative

Staff initiative Let's Talk GenAI ran in May 2024

Student initiatives ran September 2024

What was the reach of the initiative?

200+ staff
300+ students

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Aims/Objectives

Let's Talk GenAI at UL was for staff and intended to
- Introduce University staff and students to some AI concepts
- Give an overview of some Generative AI tools
- Provide guidance on getting started with prompt writing
- Grow awareness of ethical and responsible use of AI
- Explore ways in which Gen AI can be used critically and effectively to enhance professional, academic and research roles.

Student initiative
- To create cohesive, introductory-level GenAI resources and workshops accessible to all UL students.
- To enhance students' awareness, understanding and responsible use of GenAI at UL.
- To encourage academic staff to integrate these resources into their curricula or signpost their students to them.

Rationale and Identified Needs

At the start of 2024, there was uncertainty and apprehension about how GenAI might impact teaching, research and professional support roles in our University. Led by Michelle Breen from the Library at the University of Limerick, a group of colleagues from the Library, the Centre for Transformative Learning, the Information Technology Division and the University's Academic Integrity Unit, having previously worked together on projects that spanned an area greater than their individual units remit, to bring some necessary Generative AI CPD to our colleagues, to bridge this knowledge gap and step in to the void that existed heretofore. Individually, each unit had a certain amount of knowledge from their subject domain, but combined, they felt they'd be able to bring some useful CPD to the campus community.

The surge of public interest in AI and GenAI, alongside faculty discourse in the staff initiative, revealed a growing, critical need for students to also understand these technologies and their impacts on academic integrity, ethics, and employability. This underscored a need for a unified set of collaboratively developed resources to ensure that students were well equipped to engage with these evolving technologies responsibly, in an informed way. David Moloney, Digital Skills Development Lead, CTL, led this approach to develop both a digital lesson and a workshop on GenAI for students, with collaborative input from colleagues in the Library, Academic Integrity, and the IT Division.

Frameworks, Policies, or Strategies Aligned (internal, local or national)

QQI (NAIN) principles and guidelines
- NAIN (2023): Generative AI Guidelines for Educators
- NAIN (2021): Academic Integrity: National Principles and Lexicon of Common Terms
- NAIN (2021): Academic Integrity Guidelines

UL "Interim Statement on Academic Integrity and Academic Misconduct"

Categories	Elements	Topics	Target Groups
		Digital Transformation	Students
Coordinate			Staff
Create	Professional Development		
		Collaborative and Interdisciplinary Approaches	
		Artificial Intelligence	