

Guiding the Evolution of AI in Higher Education in Oman: Strategies and Insights

Zainab Al Balushi, Sonia Achour

Sultan Qaboos University

Abstract

Artificial intelligence (AI) stands as a transformative force poised to revolutionize various facets of human existence. In the realm of education in particular, AI introduces innovative teaching and learning methodologies currently undergoing validation across diverse educational contexts. Oman's higher education landscape is amidst this transformative wave of AI integration, necessitating the formulation of guidelines to navigate this transition effectively. This study aims to illuminate the scope of AI utilization in tertiary education, specifically within Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) and higher education institutions across Oman, to equip policymakers with informed decision-making tools for future AI integration. Initially, the study will survey existing AI guidelines adopted by SQU and other Omani higher education providers. Subsequently, it will investigate the attitudes, uses and perceptions of SQU undergraduates towards AI integration in the learning process and their compliance with established regulations. Teachers' views will also be investigated in a similar regard. Finally, the study will examine how educational institutions are adapting their programs to prepare learners for the increasing presence of AI and its associated challenges. Recommendations derived from these analyses will be presented accordingly.

Keywords: ChatGPT, guidelines, regulations, recommendations