

## LETTER OF INFORMATION / CONSENT



Inspiring Innovation and Discovery

### Building AI Tools to Enhance Classroom Learning

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### Purpose of the Study

You are invited to take part in this study on the use of AI in the classroom. This study examines how students, faculty, and employers view generative AI in the classroom compared to the workplace, and how these attitudes may reveal opportunities to enhance learning. We are particularly interested in how to equip students with the skills to productively engage with generative AI to remain competitive in the workforce while fostering an environment that enhances learning and creates a level playing field among students.

Participation in this study involves:

1. **Online focus group** discussion about emotions and experiences related to generative AI use in the classroom. This will take approximately 45 minutes and will be conducted via Zoom. Students will discuss with students, faculty with faculty, and employers with employers. With your permission, the interview will be audio and video recorded, then transcribed and anonymized.
2. **Equity Co-Creation session**, collaboratively brainstorming ideas and rotating with other participants in mixed groups. This brainstorming session will be observed by members of the research team. This engagement will take place at the DeGroot School of Business' Ron Joyce Centre and will take approximately 5 hours. Lunch will be provided.
3. **Optionally participating in a short group qualitative interview**, immediately following the engagement to reflect on the brainstorming process.

### Potential Harms, Risks or Discomforts

The risks involved in participating in this study are minimal. All information that you provide will be confidential. While we intend to use direct quotes from the in-person sessions, no quotes will be attributed directly to you, nor will names be used.

For the online focus group conducted on Zoom, we will follow practices to minimize social risk by adopting best practices for privacy and security. This includes sending a private email and using password protection and a waiting room to minimize any risks to privacy and security. This service is approved for collecting data in this study by the McMaster Research Ethics Board, however there is a small risk with any

platform such as this of data that is collected on external servers falling outside the control of the research team. A link to their privacy policy is available here (<https://zoom.us/privacy>).

We acknowledge that the use of AI is a new process, and we are still learning how to engage with these tools constructively. We understand that these discussions may prompt strong or overwhelming feelings. Participants are encouraged to take breaks as needed and may stop at any time.

### **Potential Benefits**

Though there are no direct benefits to participants, you have the opportunity contribute to a body of knowledge and insight regarding how AI tools can be implemented to enhance learning outcomes. The results of this study will help inform strategies that will benefit students in the McMaster community going forward.

### **Incentive/Payment or Reimbursement**

Participants in this study are entitled to a gift card of \$100 in value as compensation.

### **Confidentiality**

Your participation in this study is confidential.

Every effort will be made to protect your confidentiality and privacy. No names or identifiable information will be included. However, we are often identifiable through the stories we tell. Please keep this in mind in deciding what to tell us.

For the focus group sessions, the research team will undertake to safeguard the confidentiality of the discussion. Other members of the focus group will be encouraged to keep the subject of the discussion confidential, but there is no guarantee that they will do so. Please keep this in mind in deciding what to share.

Initial transcriptions will be made via Zoom recordings (<https://www.zoom.com/en/trust/privacy/>). A research team member will improve the accuracy of the transcript manually. Please note that whilst this service is approved for collecting data in this study by the McMaster Research Ethics Board, there is a small risk with any platform such as this of data that is collected on external servers falling outside the control of the research team. If you are concerned about this, please bring this to the attention of the principal investigator.

Any paper copies of information/data will be kept in a locked desk/cabinet where only Dr. McKnight and the research team will have access to it. Electronic information will be encrypted on a password protected computer and on McMaster's secure MacDrive. The entire research team will have access to this data. Once the study is complete, the data will be destroyed. It is estimated that this will occur before December 2028 to provide sufficient time for publication processes.

### **Participation and Withdrawal**

Your participation in this study is voluntary. It is your choice to be part of the study. If you decide not to be a part of the study, you can stop (withdraw) from the focus group, co-creation session, or interview for whatever reason, even after signing the consent form or part-way through the interview. If you withdraw, there will be no consequences to you and you will still be entitled to the full incentive. You will be able to withdraw anytime up until 30 days after co-creation session. In cases of withdrawal following the co-creation session, only data from the follow-up interview will be destroyed. Individual data from the focus groups and co-creation sessions cannot be withdrawn. To withdraw email Brent McKnight at [bmcknight@mcmaster.ca](mailto:bmcknight@mcmaster.ca).

- You will be asked the following questions at the time of consent:
- Do you agree to audio recording?
- Do you give permission to the use of direct quotations?
- Do you give permission for your data to be stored and used for future research?

You may choose to not answer some of the questions and remain in the study.

**Study Results**

This study will end in June 2026. Study results will be posted in November 2026 at the following site:  
[linkedin.com/in/bmcknight](https://www.linkedin.com/in/bmcknight)

**Questions about the Study**

If you have questions or need more information about the study itself, please contact a member of the research team that includes: Dr. McKnight, Dr. Wind, Dr. McCracken, Dr. Ghasemaghaei, and Sophie Banwell.

Brent McKnight <a href="mailto:bmcknight@mcmaster.ca">bmcknight@mcmaster.ca</a> (416-788-4097)
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This study has been reviewed by the McMaster University Research Ethics Board and received ethics clearance (MREB Project 8217). If you have concerns or questions about your rights as a participant or about the way the study is conducted, please contact:

McMaster Research Ethics Office  
Telephone: (905) 525-9140 ext. 23142  
E-mail: [mreb@mcmaster.ca](mailto:mreb@mcmaster.ca)