AI²: Developing an Institutional Response

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Overview

Describe the establishment of an Academic Integrity Unit within an Irish Higher Education Institution, University of Limerick

Provide a set of core tenets to develop policies and procedures relating to academic integrity and Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI)

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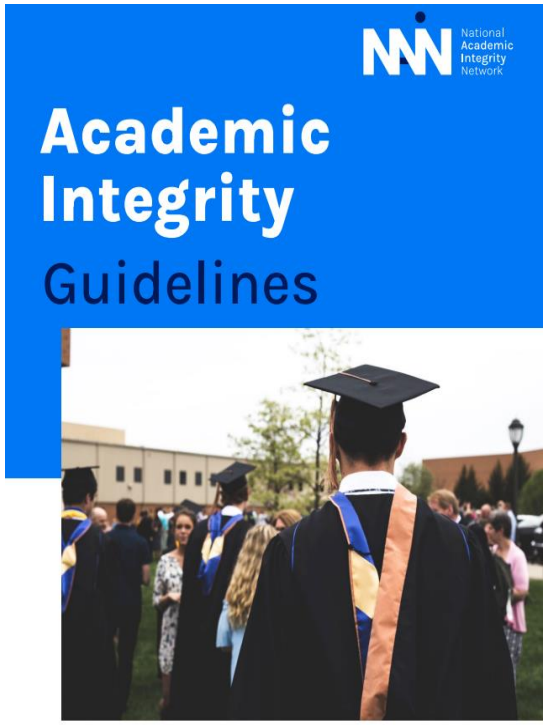
The Irish Context

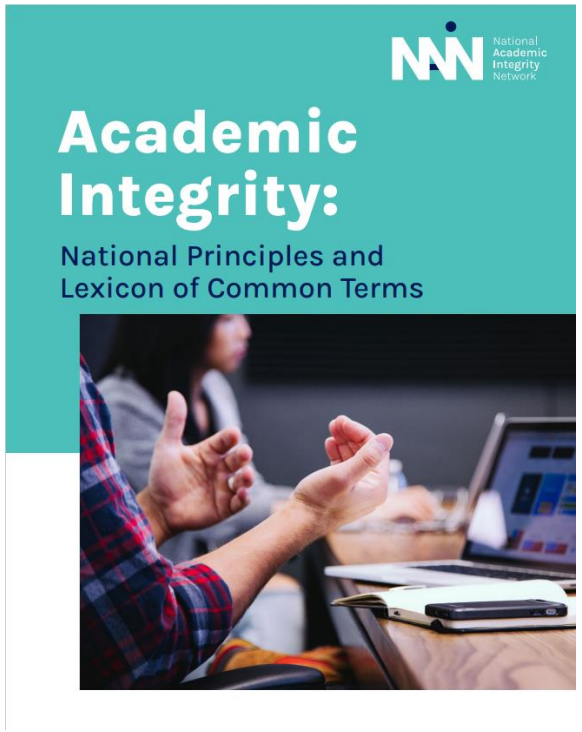
The National Academic Integrity Network (NAIN) is a peer-driven network, established in November 2019 by Quality and Qualifications Ireland.

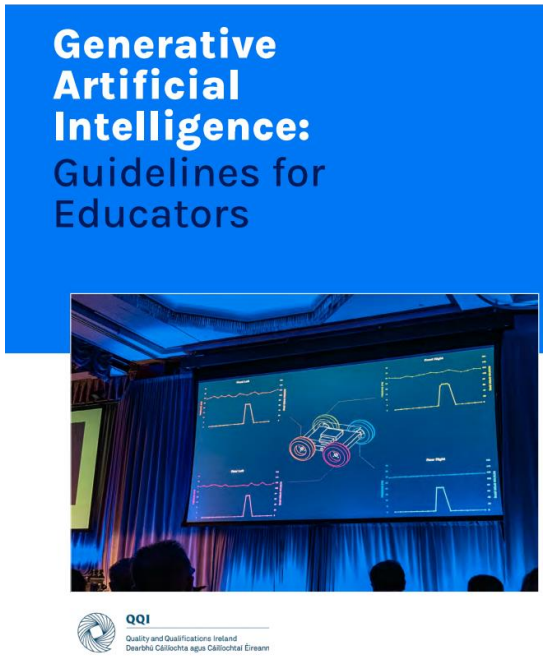
Their role is to:

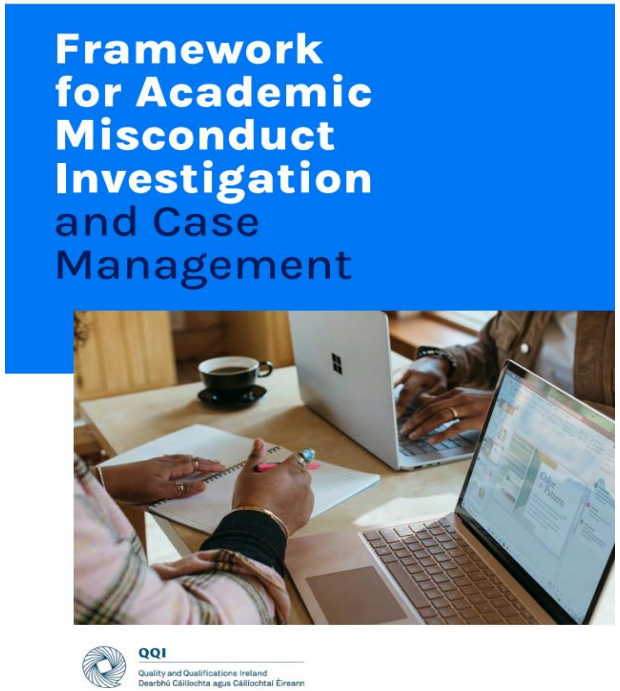
- effectively engage with the challenges presented by academic misconduct
- embed a culture of academic integrity
- develop national resources and tools for providers to address the challenges presented by academic misconduct.

National Academic Integrity Network (NAIN)









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Academic Integrity and Response Regulation

Adapted from Ellis and Murdoch 2024

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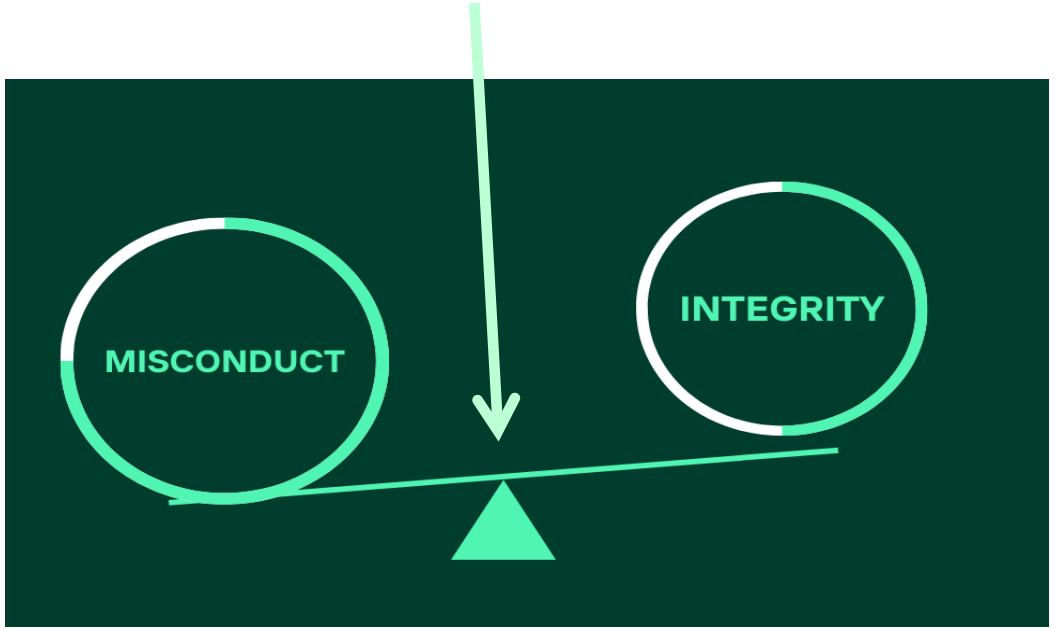
Striking the Balance: The Role of Regulation

REGULATION
Self-Regulation
Supported Regulation
Enforced Regulation

- Assessment burden
- Educational context
  - Sociocultural expectations
- Psychological and situational factors



(Bertram Gallant and Rettinger 2022; adapted from Ellis and Murdoch 2024)

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Acknowledging the national and international context

and

the evidence from published literature

What can institutions do?

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1. Make It Someone's Job

The Academic Integrity Unit

- The Academic Integrity Unit support the University of Limerick (18K students) in upholding the highest standards of academic integrity expected of all educators and learners.

- We are an academic team, established in 2023, that is within the Office of the Provost and Deputy President.

Dr Mary-Claire Kennedy
Academic Integrity Lead

Dr Fionn McGrath
Academic Integrity Educational Developer

Dr Silvia Benini
Academic Integrity Educational Developer

Role and Responsibilities

Design and Implement

Academic integrity policy

Academic misconduct procedures

Case management system

Deliver

Education and Training

- Staff
- Students

Enhance and Excel

Promote culture of Academic Integrity

Respond to emerging challenges in academic integrity landscape

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Mapping of Academic Integrity Roles

Lead Academic Integrity Officer/ Academic Integrity Lead

Academic Integrity Policy Developer

Academic Integrity Educator/Educational Developer

Academic Integrity Support Officer

Faculty Academic Integrity Officer/Academic Integrity Champion

Working Paper: Mapping Academic Integrity Roles (2025); Kennedy MC; Goff L; Tonra J; Xu S; Fitzsimmons M; Working Group 5; National Academic Integrity Network

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2. Meaningful Stakeholder Collaboration

‘No decision about me, without me.’

Key Milestones: Policy and Procedures

- Formation of Academic Integrity Unit

Organisational

- Appointment of Policy Working Group
- Mapping of perceptions and experiences of existing university approach to academic misconduct
- Meetings of the PWG over the course of a six-month period
- Review by university solicitor

Procedural

- Appointment of Academic Integrity Champions
- Development of implementation plan including mapping of key stakeholders to ensure efficient and effective implementation
- Revisit and review policy

Implementation

3. Pragmatic Problem-Solving During Policy Development

Institutional Benchmarking

Formal and systematic process

Comprehensive comparison with similar institutions e.g. review of academic misconduct sanctions

National Discussion

NAIN Academic Integrity Leads/Advisors Community of Practice: Problem-solving and sharing the lived experience

NAIN Plenary Meetings: Formal presentation of institutional policies

External Review

Review of draft policy by expert external reviewer and discussion around specific points of concern

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4. Institutional Implementation and Acceptance

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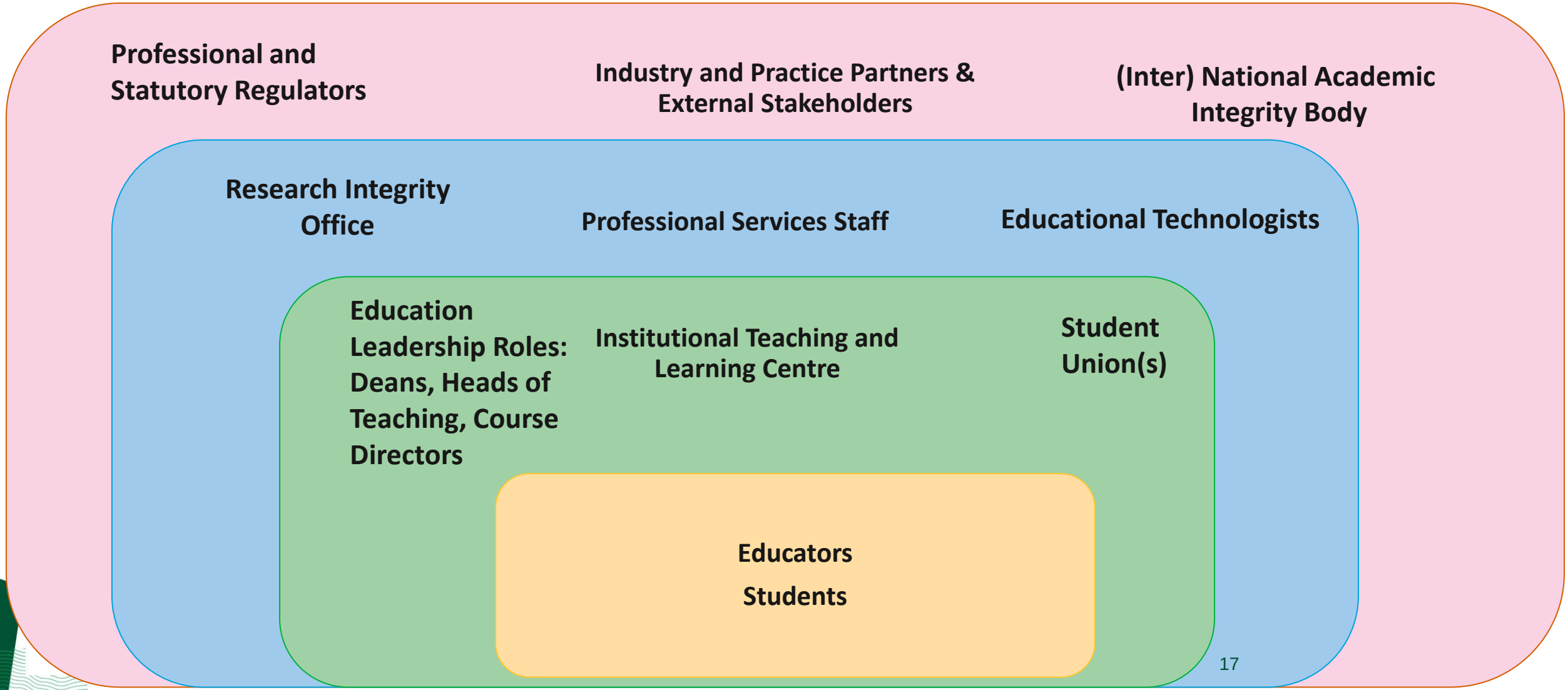
Stakeholder Mapping and Communication Plan

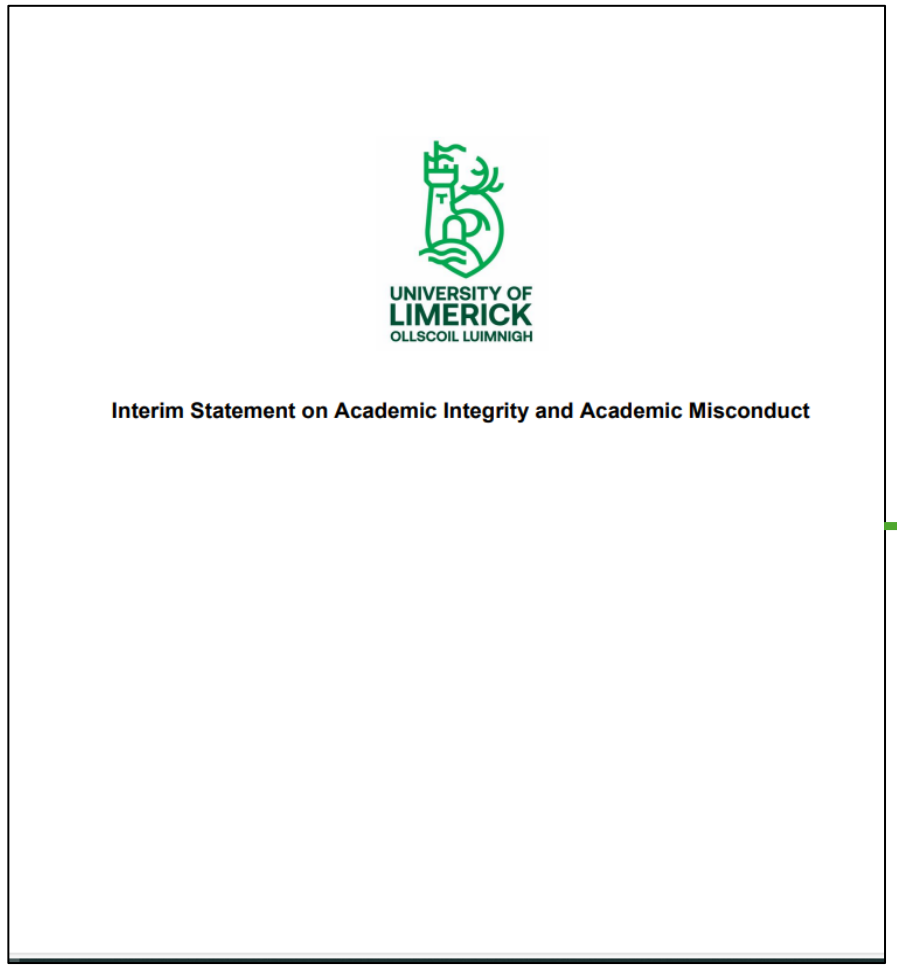


5. Plan for an Uncertain Future

Organisational Dimensions

Recognise and meet needs

Interim Statement on Academic Integrity and Academic Misconduct (2024)



Establishment of AI Taskforce (2025)

Guide the strategic integration, advancement, and ethical use of AI, including Generative AI (GenAI) technologies, across UL

Representation from cross-section of University stakeholders

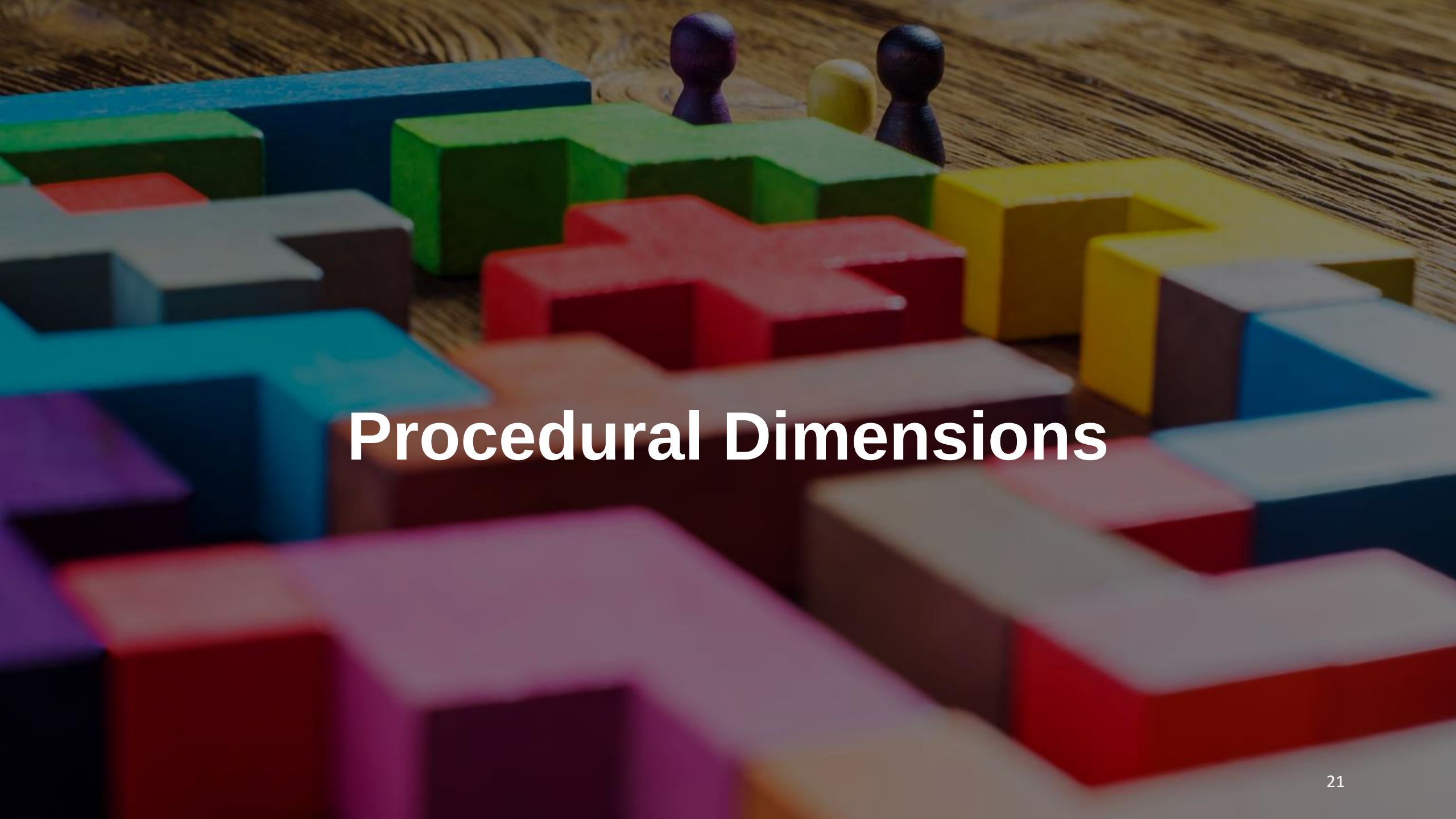
Definitions:

Academic Integrity

Academic Misconduct

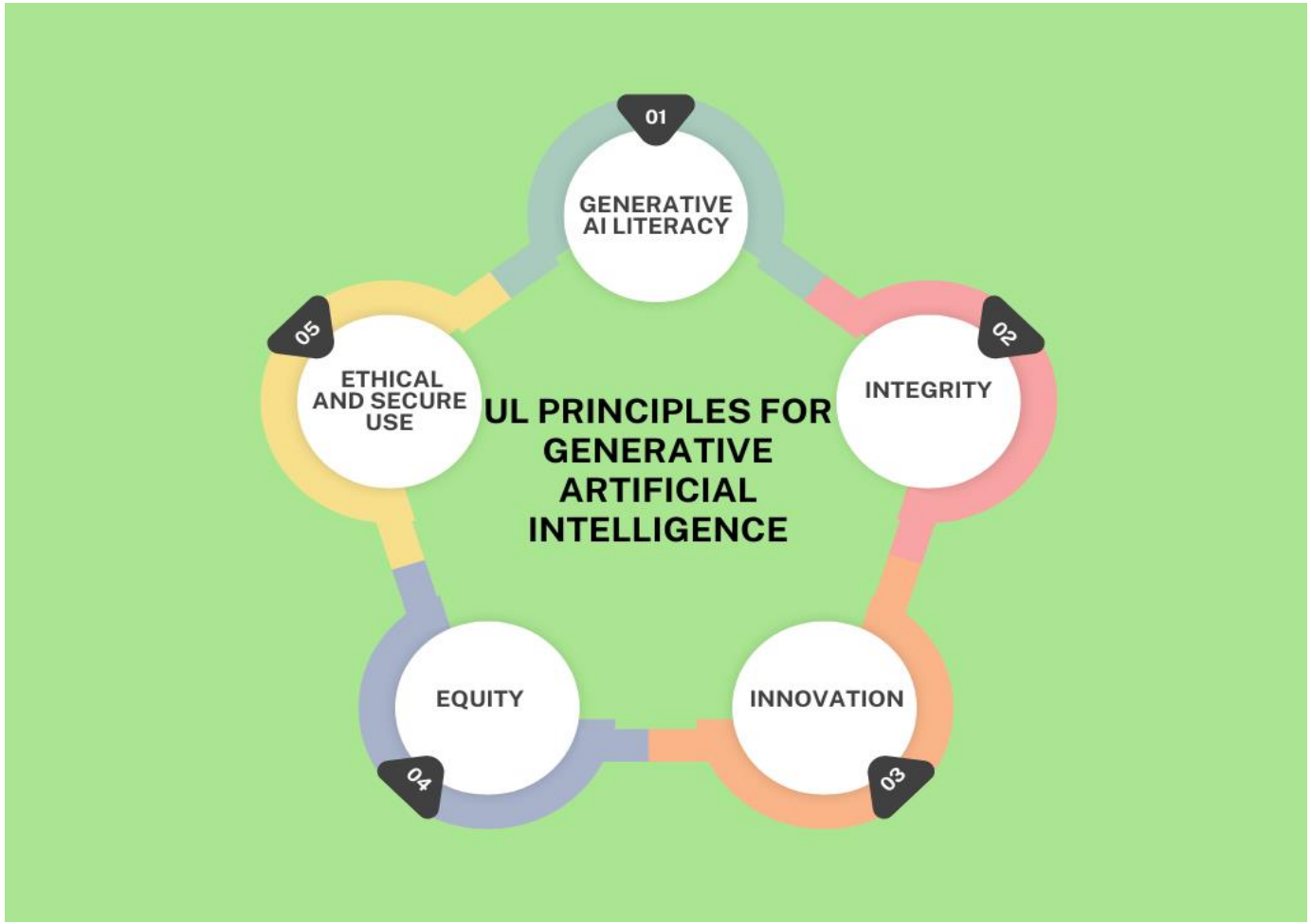
Artificial Intelligence and implications for academic integrity

Signposting to Resources



Procedural Dimensions

Future Proofing with Principles



Roadmap for all stakeholders within UL to navigate both current and emerging challenges and opportunities associated with Generative AI.

Related to:

- Institution
- Staff (educators, researchers, professional services staff)
- Students

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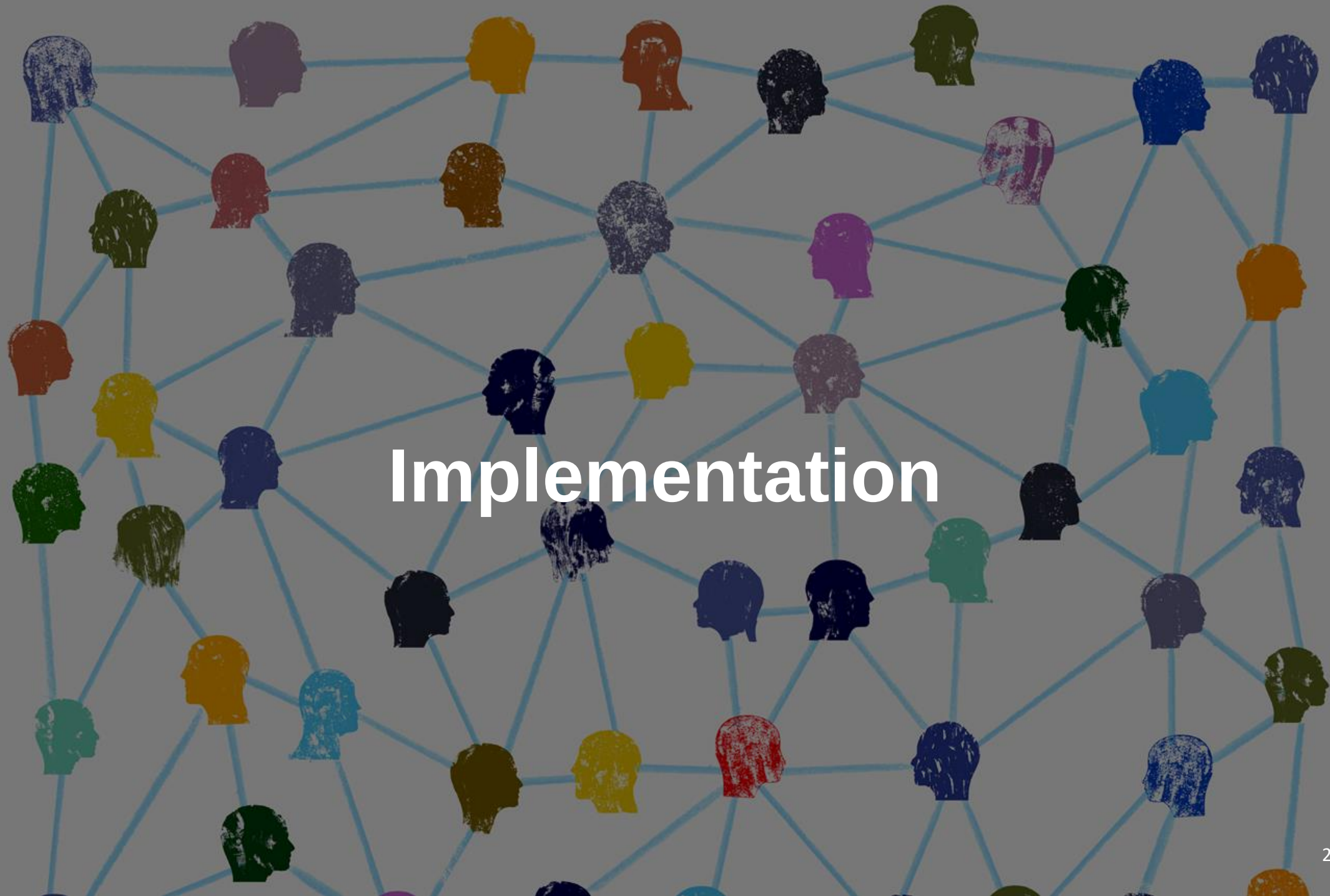
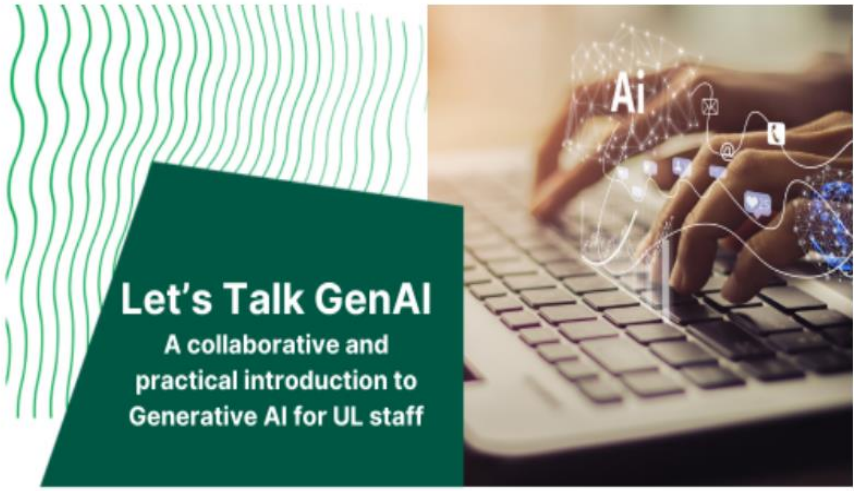


Implementation

Dynamic and Accessible Educational Supports



Give me about 10 minutes on is a bitesize educational series that explores different topics including GenAI, Contract Cheating and much more

Dynamic and Accessible Educational Supports

UL AI Community of Practice

- Create a shared understanding of the possibilities of GenAI in higher education
- Provide a safe and friendly environment for exchange of ideas and a platform to share successes in the integration of GenAI in teaching, learning and assessment (Wenger & Snyder, 2000).

Facing Gen AI and the Assessment Conundrum

- Educational Workshops
  - Incorporating Universal Design for Learning
  - Design-in Vs Design-out AI

Conclusion

- Different types of regulation a necessary feature to uphold academic integrity

- Pioneers on the edge of a new frontier
  - But mind the gap!
  - Planning is key but so is pragmatism
  - Collaborate from the outset

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Thank You
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