RAMAIAH UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

University House
New BEL Road
MSR Nagar
Bangalore-560 054

T 080 4536 6666
F 080 4536 6677
E info@msruas.ac.in
W www.msruas.ac.in
www.ramaiah-india.org

Ref: MSRUAS/ Reg/ Notf/ ACM-BOM-BOG/ORI/2025-26/103 28th March 2026

NOTIFICATION

Subject: **Approval of the Examinations Guidelines related to Plagiarism policy.**

Ref: 1. **Approved in the 37th Academic Council Meeting held on 10th Feb 2026 (Agenda No. AC 37.4)**

2. **Approved in the 32nd Board of Management Meeting held on 6th March 2026 (Agenda No. BOM 32.23)**

3. **Reported in the 32nd Board of Governors Meeting held on 12th March 2026 (Agenda No. BOG (32.8.8)**

The Examinations Guidelines related to Plagiarism policy has been approved and is notified as per Annexure A

The information must be circulated to all students.

For M S Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences

Registrar
M.S. Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences
Bangalore - 560 054

Mr. S Ashok Rao
Registrar

Copy To:

1. Deans/ HoDs of all Faculties/ Schools
2. Office of the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor
3. Provosts, RUAS
4. Dean, Academics, RUAS
5. Dean, Research and Innovation
6. Controller of Examinations

Registered as : MS Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences
"Established as per Govt. of Karnataka ACT No: 15 of 2013, Recognized by UGC U/S 2(f) of the UGC Act, 1956"

ANNEXURE A

The Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences (RUAS) Regulations Framework for Artificial Intelligence in Higher Education

(RUAS-AI-RF/2025)

Version 1.0

Dated: 15th October 2025

- Seen
- Discussed
- To update with changes, if any, since Oct. 2025 till date

Dean R&I

24/3

The Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences (RUAS) Regulations Framework for Artificial Intelligence in Higher Education (RUAS-AI-RF/2025)

Version

1.0: Dated: 15th October 2025

2.0: Dated: 20th April 2026

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1. Preamble

Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences (RUAS) introduced the plagiarism policy in the year 2015 and subsequently revised the same in 2021. The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) declared the year 2025 as "The Year of Artificial Intelligence", to promote the adoption of AI in the Indian technical education system. In this view, the RUAS has changed its policy in the use of AI tools in its documents and manuscripts prepared by the faculty members, students and staffs. At the same time, there is a need for all these people for proper training and utilization of the AI and its related tools.

The University is ensuring Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism through the 'Plagiarism Policy' of RUAS. This Policy is derived from the UGC (Promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism) Regulations, 2018 notified in the Official Gazette of India dated 31st July 2018. The RUAS Community (Faculty Members and Ph.D. as well as Postgraduate Students) are trained, and made aware of, to adhere the Anti-Plagiarism mechanism for Ph.D. Thesis, Dissertations, Research Publications etc. across the University ecosystem. Moreover, the University has subscribed to Turnitin® Anti-Plagiarism Software from 2016 onwards and the RUAS Community are aware of implications of Plagiarism.

2. Aim of the Plagiarism Policy

The aim of the Plagiarism Policy is to enhance the quality standards of Ph.D. Thesis, Post Graduate Students' research work in the form of dissertation and the Under Graduate Students' project reports, leading to the partial fulfillment of award of degrees by RUAS. The Policy has led to the implementation of Anti-Plagiarism mechanism which is imbibed as the research culture among Faculty Members and Students. This has led to the attainment of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism across the University. The Plagiarism Policy is developed in alignment with UGC (Promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism) Regulations, 2018.

3. Response to the AICTE Mandate and National Imperative

RUAS formally commits to the strategic goals outlined by the AICTE, specifically fulfilling the AI Affirmation Pledge. This pledge necessitates a commitment to four core areas: the integration of AI courses across disciplines, the fostering of research and innovation in AI, the preparation of students for future AI-driven industries, and the promotion of ethical AI use for societal benefit. The necessity for this transformative framework is further underscored by the national vision to achieve. Viksit Bharat 2047 and to position India as a "Vishwa Guru in AI" by bridging the critical skill gap between academia and industry.

4. The RUAS AI Vision: Augmentation, Innovation, and Ethical Leadership

The core philosophy guiding AI integration at RUAS is that AI must be utilized to augment human capabilities - enhancing student learning, increasing faculty efficiency, and improving institutional operations - rather than replacing critical human functions, such as critical thinking and originality. RUAS commits to fostering a culture of critical AI literacy. This approach mandates that students be taught how to use AI thoughtfully and critically. To exclude AI from education would be to send students into a ubiquitous, AI-driven workforce unprepared. Instead of banning the technology, the University requires that students use it as a tool for deep learning, such as generating an AI response and then critiquing its limitations against primary sources, thereby reinforcing the value of close reading and critical inquiry.

5. Core Ethical and Pedagogical Principles of RUAS AI Policy

To ensure responsible adoption across all faculties, particularly in high-stakes domains like Health Sciences, the policy is structured around six non-negotiable principles derived from global ethical standards:

5.1 Transparency and Explainability: Users must be provided with clear, understandable information about how AI systems operate, especially when these systems influence high-stakes decisions in administrative, admissions, or assessment contexts. This principle ensures that AI is not a "black box" but a tool whose processes can be clearly justified.

5.2 Accountability and Responsibility: Students, faculty, and administrators remain fully accountable for the outcome of any task, research, or decision, even if the result was partially generated or informed by AI.

5.3 Equity and Justice: AI systems, particularly those used for predictive modeling in admissions or student retention, are susceptible to biases inherent in historical data. The policy mandates that these systems be routinely audited to mitigate historical data bias and ensure fair outcomes across all student demographics, aligning AI deployment with institutional values over commercial interests.

5.4 Data Privacy and Security: RUAS requires rigorous safeguards for Personally Identifiable Information (PII) and University-Internal data. Strict protocols must govern the interaction between users and GenAI models, especially prohibiting the input of restricted data into public, non-vetted tools.

5.5 Beneficence: AI systems may only be deployed where they demonstrably enhance learning, support research, or significantly improve administrative functions. Any AI application must be

carefully assessed for risks, including biases and potential falsehoods, and must align with the mission of the institution.

5.6 Faculty Autonomy: While bound by the institutional framework, faculty members retain the fundamental autonomy to set specific, course-level policies on AI usage, defining precisely how and when AI tools are permissible for specific assignments.

6. Compliance with AICTE and UGC Directives

The AICTE's drive to accelerate AI adoption has concrete regulatory implications for RUAS:

6.1 Curriculum Integration and Expansion

RUAS integrated both foundational and advanced AI topics across all disciplines, supporting the AICTE's initiative to laterally expand AI curriculum beyond traditional B.Tech / Computer Science programs into areas like BBA, BCA, Electrical Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering. This requires a mandatory curriculum update to ensure that non-Computer Science students are equipped with AI applications relevant to their specialized fields, such as applying AI in mechanical systems or civil infrastructure.

6.2 Mandatory AI Disclosure in Research

In adherence to the recommendations of the AICTE Task Force for technical education, RUAS hereby mandates the immediate requirement for mandatory disclosure and an AI disclaimer in all PhD and DSc theses submitted through the University's research streams. The disclosure must include a reference to the AI usage, proper referencing, and a copyright disclaimer. The AICTE policy further specifies that the use of AI tools must be transparently referenced, and AI-generated content should constitute less than 20% of the overall original thesis content. This percentage, while posing technical challenges for verification, establishes a crucial philosophical benchmark: AI is intended strictly as an aid, not a primary contributor or co-author of the original research.

6.3 Definition of AI-Assisted Plagiarism

RUAS adopts the position that the use of AI in academic work becomes plagiarism when students present AI-generated content as their own original work without proper attribution. This aligns with the University Grants Commission (UGC) definition, which considers claiming someone else's work, including content generated by artificial intelligence, as one's own, a violation of academic

integrity. Moreover, the mere use of AI to rephrase or paraphrase existing content without evidence of critical engagement with the material is also classified as academic misconduct.

7. Curriculum, Pedagogical and Leadership Paradigm

Given RUAS's multidisciplinary structure, tailored regulations are essential to address the unique pedagogical, ethical, and safety concerns of the community. The paradigm implemented the structure from traditional environment into AI-assisted environment.

7.1 Engineering Sciences Regulations

RUAS mandates that AI literacy modules are integrated into the core curriculum for all non-Computer Science branches, providing competency in AI applications specific to fields like Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Civil Engineering. The focus must be on Project-Based Learning (PBL) and providing hands-on experience through industry-aligned AI Labs. AI tools are highly encouraged as cognitive scaffolding for tasks like code augmentation, rapid prototyping design (e.g., the Robotics Studio model), and simulation modeling, reducing the cognitive load associated with programming syntax and freeing students to focus on innovation and complex design. Uncritical reliance on AI-generated code or solutions without comprehensive, human-led verification and testing is strictly prohibited. The use of GenAI applications to create or summarize clinical documentation, including History and Physical (H&P) notes, patient care notes, or for formulating unverified differential diagnoses, is strictly prohibited.40 AI must not substitute the physician's core knowledge acquisition, analysis, or critical self-reflection.

7.2 Health Sciences Regulations (Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Allied Health)

The integration of AI in clinical education is designated as High-Risk due to profound ethical concerns regarding patient safety, privacy, and institutional liability. Students are strictly prohibited from inputting any patient data, including partially anonymized or University-Internal health records, into public generative AI tools. The Health Sciences curriculum is incorporated with mandatory specialized AI education focusing specifically on: AI ethics, understanding algorithmic

bias in diagnostic or prognostic tools (e.g., mitigating racial bias in health models), and the liability associated with applying AI in clinical decision-making.

7.3 Social Sciences Regulations

AI integration in Social Sciences promotes skills in computational social science, large-scale data analysis, and the ethical scrutiny of AI's societal impact. Students are encouraged to use AI for data interpretation, multivariate analysis, and identifying complex trends in large datasets. GenAI is encouraged to facilitate deep critical engagement. Collaborative AI projects, ensuring students compare AI-generated insights with traditional research methods. The curriculum also covers the ethical role of machine learning in social issues, such as gerrymandering or global challenges like climate change.

7.4 Establishment of the RUAS AI Ethics Committee (AEC)

To ensure assured enforcement and ethical compliance, RUAS shall immediately establish an independent, standing AI Ethics Committee (AEC). Given the multidisciplinary nature of the University and the high-risk profile of the Health Sciences, a purely advisory committee is insufficient. The AEC must operate as a Governance Model, granting it genuine regulatory power to oversee policy implementation and ensure least risk.

7.5 Faculty Development Program (FDP) Mandate

To address the documented capacity gap among educators, RUAS mandates the completion of a standardized FDP curriculum for all teaching staff and the students are literate with expert lectures, workshops and participating through industry expert's interaction. The focus of all these events are towards: foundational AI literacy, ethical and responsible use, and advanced pedagogical and assessment reforms.

8. The RUAS Policy on AI Disclosure and Attribution

The RUAS is in promotion policy of the usage of Artificial Intelligence (AI) by its community such as students, faculty members and the staff. It encourages the usage of AI tools but at the same time it has stringent measures for the level of usage of such tools.

8.1 Mandatory AI Disclaimer Format

RUAS hereby mandates that all students, across all levels of study (UG, PG, and Research), submitting graded work must include a standardized, mandatory declaration detailing the nature, extent, and purpose of any AI tool usage. This declaration must move beyond simple optional disclosure to mandatory transparency, documenting the specific contribution of the tool. The required elements of the AI Disclaimer include: (i) the name of the AI model used (e.g., ChatGPT 4.0, Microsoft Copilot, perplexity), (ii) the specific purpose of the usage (e.g., translation, brainstorming, grammar checking, summarization), and, for critical components, (iii) the specific prompt and the resulting output that was utilized.

8. 2 Citation Standards for Generative AI

As GenAI is a dynamic, non-traditional source, RUAS mandates the adoption of a standardized citation style (to be specified in an annexure, based on modified international standards) that requires referencing the specific prompt as the "source input" and recording the date of the output generation. This addresses the fact that LLM outputs can vary over time.

8.3 Accountability for Output

The student retains full and singular responsibility for the accuracy, quality, content, and proper referencing of all submitted work, even if parts were generated by an AI tool. The risk of AI generating fabricated information (hallucinations) or perpetuating harmful biases falls entirely upon the student who chooses to include that content in their assessed work.

8.4 Defining Unauthorized Use

Academic misconduct related to AI is defined as submitting AI-generated content as one's own original work without the required disclosure and attribution or using AI in assignments where its

use is explicitly prohibited by the instructor's course-level policy. Unauthorized use is penalized not merely as cheating, but as a deliberate act that prevents the student from learning critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity, which are essential skills.

8.5 Verification of Originality

Faculty members are fully authorized to inquire about a student's authorship if a submission raises concerns. Verification methods include requiring students to orally explain, expand upon, or defend their submitted work. Evidence of potential integrity violations includes the submission of advanced references or methods that exceed the scope of the course or the student's documented progress, or the student's inability to explain the fundamental principles behind the work.

8.6 Disciplinary Measures

Repeated or deliberate misuse of AI tools, or failure to disclose use when mandated, will be treated as serious academic offenses. Disciplinary measures range from grade reduction for the assignment to failure of the course, and for repeated or severe misconduct, disciplinary action including debarment or expulsion, consistent with UGC regulations.

9. Conclusion

Plagiarism in its different form is unacceptable, without proper citation and reference. There is the need of the hour of incorporating Artificial Intelligence in today's scenario. As the AI is becoming part of everybody's life on every day basis, it is unavoidable. At the same time, more rely on AI is also unethical. Hence, in all these views, the RUAS has prepared the plagiarism policy based on the recommendations of AICTE and UGC, through which it would like to substantiate the usage of Artificial Intelligence but not to be used as a major player for the preparation of manuscript, report or thesis by the students, faculty members and staffs. RUAS introduced its mandatory policies through different modalities which includes creating awareness about the ethical use of AI tools, introduced the AI courses at both fundamental and advanced level at all the faculties, conducts development programs, more than all it established the AI Ethics Committee, for its community like students, faculty members and staffs. The mandatory AI Disclaimer and citation requirement for all graded work, and the institution-wide assessment redesign mandate are vital to ensuring that AI serves to strengthen, rather than diminish, the quality of education and research at RUAS.

Table 1: Comparison of Academic AI Integrity Policies: India vs. Global HEIs

Policy Domain	AICTE/Indian Context Practice	Leading International HEI Practice	RUAS Recommendation
Mandatory Disclosure	Required for PhD/DSc technical theses (20% limit on AI use).[12]	Increasingly mandated for all assignments; Requires citing prompts/outputs.[19]	Mandatory disclosure via a standardized AI Disclaimer for all graded work (UG, PG, Research). RUAS Anti-Plagiarism policy to include PhD/ Other technical theses including evaluation documents (20% limit on AI use) Introduce AI based plagiarism definition
Plagiarism Definition	UGC includes AI-generated content as plagiarism if uncredited.[14]	Focus on unauthorized use, violation of course-specific policies, and passing off content.[10]	Standardized definition linking non-attribution to academic misconduct, including paraphrasing AI content without critical engagement.[22]
Assessment Strategy	Encourages faculty to change questions to deter copying.[11]	Redesign for process-based, authentic tasks, and higher-order thinking (C-E-A).[18]	Implement institution-wide mandatory assessment redesign FDP focused on authentic tasks and metacognitive reflection.[23]

Annexure I : DECLARATION OF USE OF AI AND AI-ASSISTED TECHNOLOGIES

Title of the Thesis / report:
Candidate Name(s):
Registration / Roll No(s):
Department / Faculty:

I / We, the undersigned, declare that in the preparation of this thesis / report, I / we have utilized Artificial Intelligence (AI) and AI-assisted technologies. The extent and nature of their usage are disclosed below:

1. Scope of AI Usage

(Select/Check the boxes that apply to your work)

	Language and Grammar Refinement: Used for correcting syntax, spelling, and improving the flow of the text (e.g., Grammarly, ChatGPT, Quillbot).
	Literature Search and Summarization: Used to identify relevant research papers or summarize existing literature (e.g., Elicit, Perplexity, Scite).
	Data Analysis/Coding: Used to generate or debug software code or assist in statistical computations (e.g., GitHub Copilot, ChatGPT).
	Ideation and Structuring: Used to brainstorm chapter outlines or conceptual frameworks.
	Other: [Specify: _____]

2. Specific Tools Used

The following AI tools were employed during the research process:

- **Tool Name(s):** [e.g., ChatGPT-4, Grammarly Premium, Claude 3]
- **Version / Date used:** [e.g., March 2024 Version]

3. Statement of Responsibility

I / We confirm that:

1. The core research questions, experimental design, and data collection were conducted independently by me.
2. The final interpretation of results, discussions, and conclusions are my own original intellectual contributions.
3. All AI-generated suggestions were critically reviewed, edited, and verified for accuracy.
4. No "hallucinated" or fabricated citations generated by AI have been included in this work.
5. I remain fully responsible for the entire content of the thesis and for any errors or inaccuracies therein.
6. **The AI generated content in this report / thesis is included at _____ percentage. The similarity percentage is at___%. (Include Turnitin report)**
7. **The data used is fair and the integrity of the same is vouched by me/us.**

Sl. No.	Roll No.	Name of the candidate	Signature

1.			
2.			
3.			
4			

Date:
Counter-signed by Research / Project / Intern supervisor: _____

Approval authority Signature: