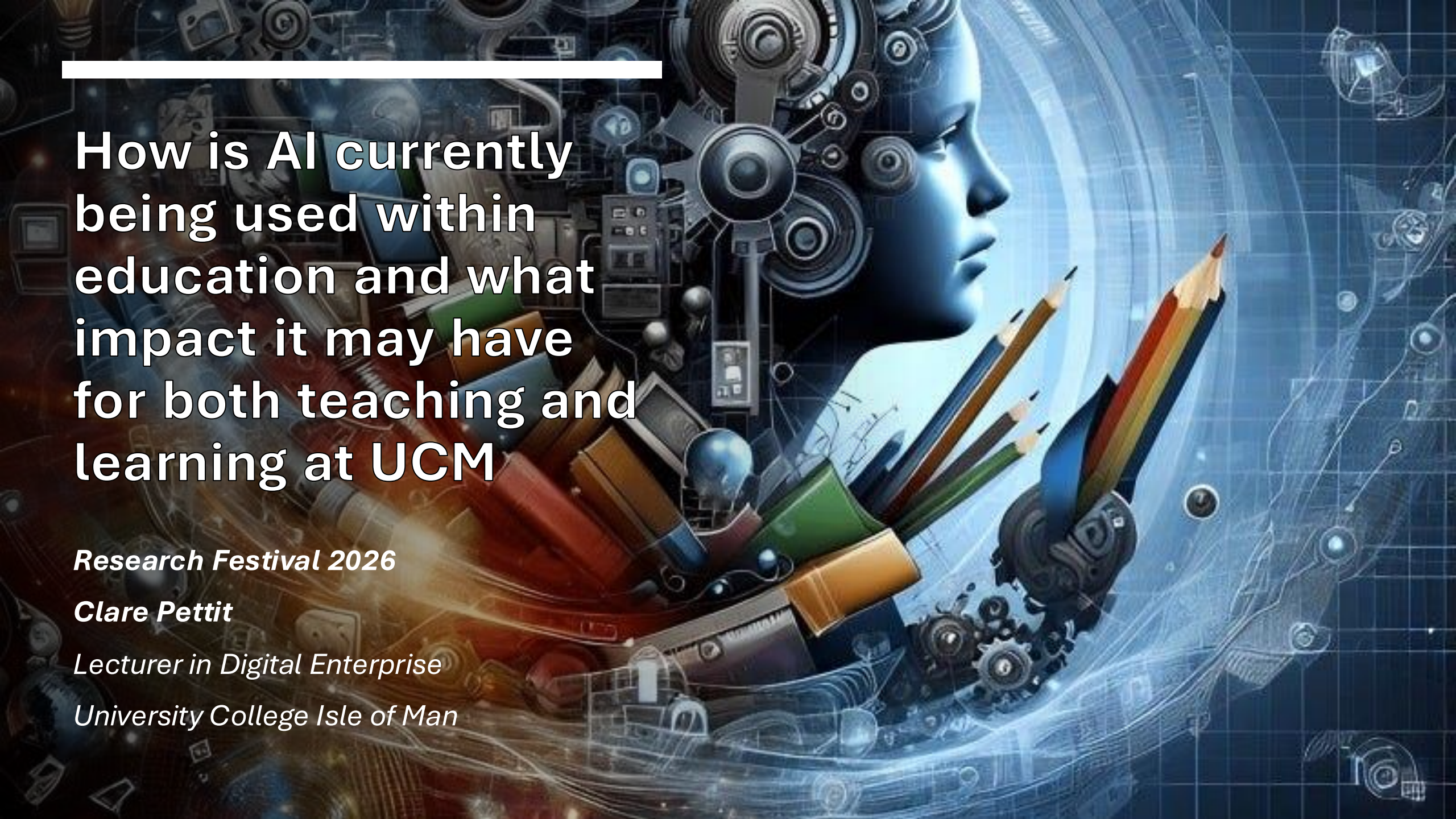


How is AI currently being used within education and what impact it may have for both teaching and learning at UCM

Research Festival 2026

Clare Pettit

Lecturer in Digital Enterprise

University College Isle of Man

AI has arrived in education, but are we preparing staff and students to use it effectively and ethically?

Rapid rise of AI tools

Impact on education

Why focus on UCM not the whole IOM?



GROWING STUDENT USE OF AI



EMERGING INSTITUTIONAL POLICIES

Research Aim -

To explore how staff and students across Levels 1–7 at UCM are currently using AI, identifying differences across courses, subject areas and levels of study, and evaluating where AI can effectively support teaching, learning and assessment.

The research would then be used to inform recommendations for the effective and appropriate integration of AI within the curriculum, while identifying where traditional approaches remain valuable.

Research Questions

RQ 1. How do staff at UCM currently use AI?

RQ 2. How do students at UCM currently use AI?

RQ 3. What recommendations would I make to UCM to help plan the integration of AI into the curriculum.

Participants

Staff respondents

Student respondents

Questionnaires followed up by direct emails

What was Expected vs What was Found

Assumption	Finding
Students heavily depend on AI	Many deliberately avoid it
Staff were not as confident in using AI as their students	All the staff who responded use AI for teaching resource generation
Ethics concerns mainly from staff	Students shared many of the same concerns

Key Themes



INTEGRATING AI INTO PEDAGOGY



ETHICAL CONCERNS



AI GOVERNANCE

Theme 1 Integrating AI into Pedagogy - Findings

AI needs structured integration

Students require guidance

Staff need confidence and support

AI should enhance learning, not replace it

The Assessment Challenge

Traditional Learning Process

Research → Evaluate → Write → Reflect

The AI Shortcut

Prompt → Copy → Submit

AI as a Learning Tool

Prompting ↓ Research ↓ Critical Evaluation ↓ Learning

- A Prompt – Tell me about the history of computing
- A better prompt – I am a student writing a 500-word essay on the history of computer hardware between 1950 and 2000. Please create me a timeline to illustrate it.

What Skills Matter in an AI World?

- Critical thinking
- Communication
- Evaluation
- Collaboration
- Reflection

Theme 2 - Ethical Concerns



COPYRIGHT



DATA PROTECTION



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT



ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic Integrity - Trust and bias

Staff may assume misuse

Many students choose not to use AI

Need to build trust through education rather than suspicion

Theme 3
AI Governance

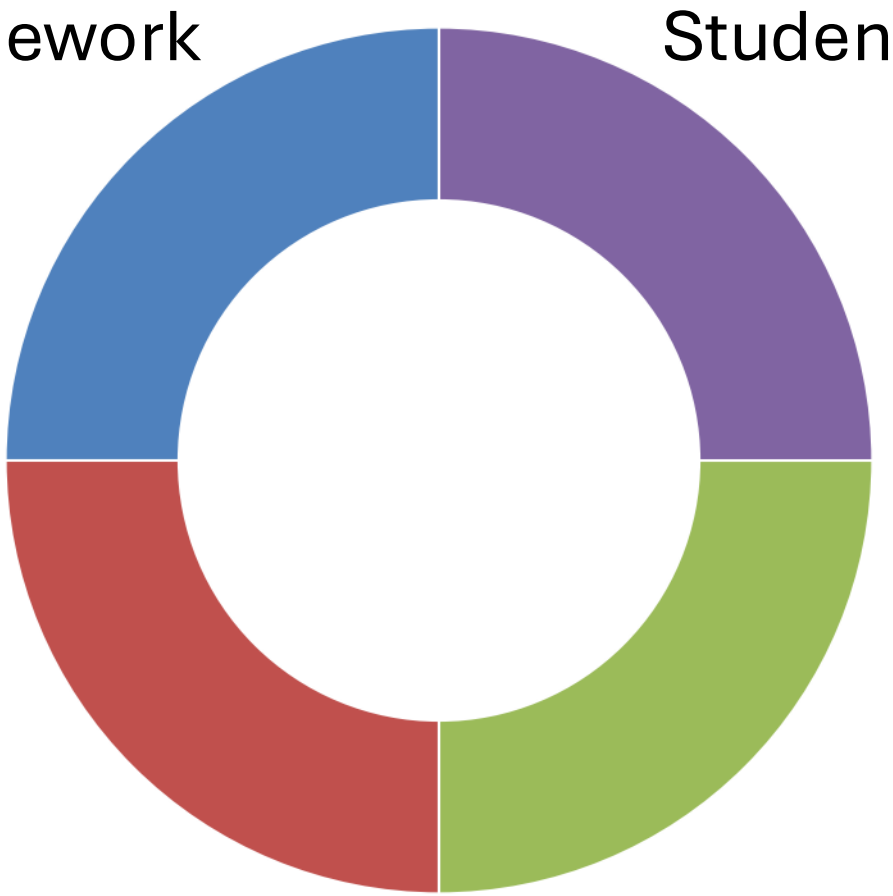
UCMs AI Policy

Under-18 DESC restrictions

Assessment contradictions

Annual review cycle

Key Recommendation Framework



AI Policy Framework

Central Policy Location for Staff and Students

AI Policy Tutorials

Staff Development

Understanding AI

Using AI Professionally

Assessment Redesign

Student AI Literacy Programme



AI Literacy



Ethical Use



Prompt Engineering



Critical Evaluation

Review Mechanism



AI POLICY IS A LIVING DOCUMENT



AI POLICY FORUM

Personal Reflection

My own AI-integrated teaching practice

A shift from concern to critical engagement

AI viewed as both challenge and opportunity

Questions

