Perceptions of Artificial Intelligence Impact on Academic Training Among Life Sciences Undergraduate Students in Spanish Universities


IJosep Carreras Leukaemia Research Institute, Barcelona, Spain, II CRETUS: Cross-disciplinary Research Institute in Environmental Technologies, University of Santiago de Compostela, Santiago de Compostela, Spain, III Arquimea Research Center, San Cristóbal de La Laguna, Spain, IV Institut de Biologie Physico-Chimique, Paris, France, V Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Seville, Seville, Spain, VI International University of Valencia, Valencia, Spain

Rapidly emerging Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools are changing the way students learn. In this study, we aimed to assess the undergraduate student’s knowledge and perception of the impact of AI on their academic training. For this purpose, we conducted a survey of life sciences undergraduate students at Spanish Universities. Student’s perceptions of the role of AI were asked along the following five dimensions: student’s i) engagement with AI; ii) training in AI; iii) diversity in AI; iv) intellectual proprietary of AI generated content and v) the impact on the learning experience. AI tools are used strikingly more frequently in the 18-23 age range (>90%) compared to those students older than 24 (< 10%). Content generation tools (such as ChatGPT) are used by more than 70% of students, whereas other AI tools (including personalized and automated learning tools) are used by less than 20% of students. In general, more than 50% of the students agreed that the AI tools can provide more detailed feedback than professors, help on identifying academic problems and improve their learning capacity. Over 50% of the surveyed students disagreed that the use of AI in educational learning is cheating. Interestingly, more than 50% of students disagreed with the statement that they feel more comfortable asking questions to AI than to professors. Nevertheless, more than 60% of students agreed that AI tools can generate offensive or biased content in terms of diversity. The results show that most students recognize the value and positive impact that AI can have on their educational experience. Universities have a clear opportunity to enhance their curricula by including training in AI tools usage, ensuring that future professionals are well prepared to meet the challenges and seize the opportunities in an increasingly AI-driven world.