Generative AI: Free to access platforms

This table gives a summary of the platforms to explore as you look to use Generative AI in your work. The list is not extensive, and platforms regularly update the models they run on. Access to the below is free, though this may change as subscription models are updated. Please always consider the nature and security of the data you are uploading.

The following are generally considered the main three Generative AI platforms:

Platform	Key Features	Access
ChatGPT	Text generation, summarising, brainstorming, Q&A, Advanced reasoning, memory, code, file upload, image and data analysis, multi-modal	chat.openai.com – free, account required
Microsoft Copilot	Institutionally supported, data secure, integrated into Edge browser; web search, automated content generation, works in sidebar with VLE	copilot.cloud.microsoft –access via University MWS login
Google Gemini	Multi-modal: text, images, code; fast and high-quality responses	gemini.google.com – free, with Google account

The below are useful platforms to try out and include a free plan option:

Platform	Key Features	Access
Claude	Long context, accurate text generation, file uploads in free tier	claude.ai – free, with sign-up
Gamma	AI presentation creator where you can build from scratch using prompts or from existing script and information	gamma.app - free to sign up
Google NotebookLM	AI-assisted research tool that summarises, answers questions, and links across uploaded documents	notebooklm.google – free, with Google account
Google AI Studio	Interact with Google's Gemini AI in real time using text, voice, webcam, or screen sharing.	aistudio.google.com/live – currently free, in testing
Napkin AI	Quickly transform text into visuals like charts, diagrams, and flowcharts	napkin.ai – currently free, in beta testing
PadletTA	AI-powered FE teaching assistant to help you focus more on teaching and less on preparing and admin tasks.	ta.padlet.com – currently free, in beta testing
Perplexity AI	Web-cited responses, summarisation, follow-up questions	perplexity.ai – free, no login required

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