

RISKRADAR MONTHLY INSIGHTS

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*Taking risk intelligence to the next level.
Enabling the University stay ahead.*





Recent Global Developments in IHLs



Financial Sustainability

- Over 80% of English colleges risk deficits within three years due to stalled enrollment and declining international students, potentially losing £9.7 billion annually by 2026-27, leading to course consolidation, providers' exits, and reduced diversity, affecting the sector's reputation ([Inside Higher Ed](#)).
- The UK Parliament debated university financial sustainability, emphasizing business model changes, government support, and potential graduate visa policy impacts. The government allocated £1.3 billion for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and NHS (National Health Service) roles while considering international student visa recommendations ([UK Parliament](#)).



Admissions

- US College admissions are evolving, with shifts towards alternative application methods (e.g. portfolios of creative or academic work, videos, and interviews), increased use of AI, declining test score submissions, the rise of direct admissions, and colleges abandoning legacy preferences ([College Data](#)).
- A study reveals declining faith in college education among Americans due to rising tuition fees, political polarization, and skepticism about its necessity. One-third doubt its worth, with 47% seeing value only without loans ([University World News](#)).



Research

- Wayne State University received a US\$1.3 million Department of Defense grant for a three-year study on advanced Augmented Reality-enhanced exposure therapy for PTSD. The project is seen as an innovative approach to tackling mental health challenges like PTSD ([Wayne State University](#)).
- The Dutch right-wing's coalition plan published significant cuts to research and education funding, raising concerns about innovation and internationalisation potentially endangering scientists' positions. The proposal also limits Bachelor programmes offered in English and foreign student numbers affecting education accessibility and international reputation ([University World News](#)).



Cybersecurity

- A review by a Washington State University-led team highlights substantial diversity in cybersecurity programs across the US, emphasizing the need for better alignment with industry demands and instructional evaluation methods. Programs, primarily in engineering or computer science departments, differ widely despite meeting NSA (National Security Agency) requirements ([ScienceDaily](#)).
- Marshall University, state and federal partners break ground on the \$45 million Institute for Cyber Security, aiming to become the National Center of Excellence for Cyber Security in Critical Infrastructure. It emphasizes workforce development, national security, and bipartisan government support ([Marshall University News](#)).



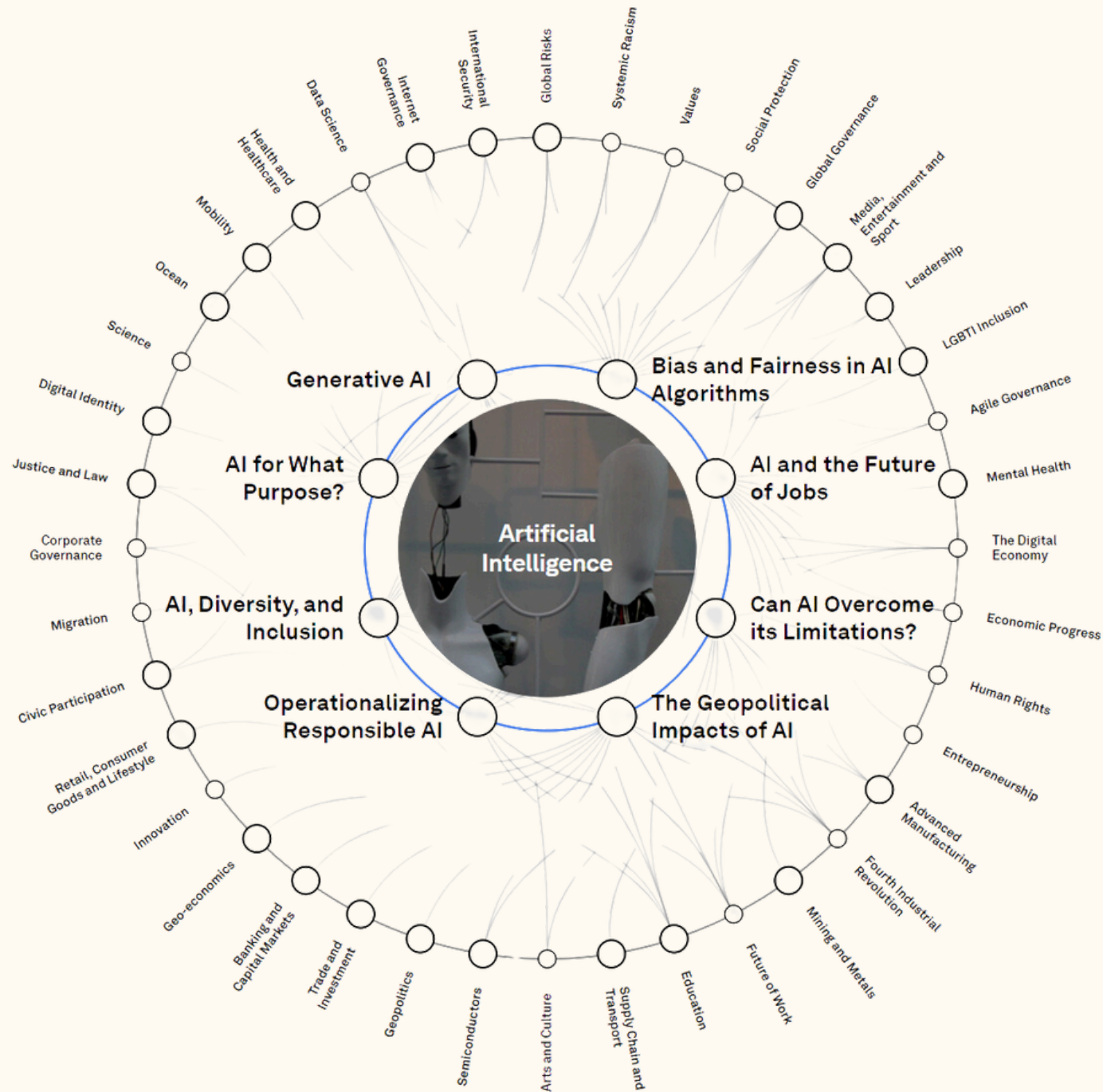
Sustainability

- NTU student group NTUdivest protests NTU's \$60 million lab partnership with ExxonMobil, labeling it greenwashing. The lab aims for low-carbon solutions. NTUdivest demands transparency and involvement, while NTU, ExxonMobil, and A*Star defend the partnership's societal benefits ([Channel News Asia](#)).
- STARS ([Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System](#)): STARS provides a framework for universities to assess and report on their sustainability performance. This system helps institutions measure their progress in areas like energy efficiency, resource utilization, and overall environmental impact.



Graduate Employability

- The Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce report highlights a significant credential-job supply and demand misalignment, particularly for middle-skills roles. Approximately 31% of future job openings will require associate degrees or certificates, but disparities exist, affecting job prospects and contributing to regional brain drain, with observed racial disparities ([Georgetown University](#)).
- Graduate students and postdocs experience mental health challenges and career uncertainties, with 57% expressing concerns in a Nature survey. Over 90% of postdocs report negative impacts from unclear career pathways. Career well-being significantly affects overall life satisfaction ([Inside Higher Ed](#)).



AI's complexities intertwine with society; it is a transformative yet imperfect tool that can enhance and disrupt lives, presenting both opportunities and challenges. Broad understanding and inclusive guidance from diverse voices are essential to harness AI to augment human potential and ensure equitable impacts.

(Insights provided by experts at the McGill University Desautels Faculty of Management, as part of the World Economic Forum's Expert Network)

Recent Developments



- OpenAI has announced [ChatGPT Edu](#), a version of ChatGPT tailored for universities. Its features include advanced text and vision reasoning, data analysis tools, enhanced language capabilities, and robust security features. ChatGPT Edu aims to make AI accessible and scalable for educational institutions.
- A [recent survey](#) by Inside Higher Ed of university provosts revealed artificial intelligence (AI) as a top concern. Only 20% have published AI policies, 14% have assessed their curricula for AI career readiness, and around 76% are moderately or extremely worried about AI affecting academic integrity.
- A [report by the Minerva Project](#) uncovered that the key strategies for higher education to integrate AI include building awareness about the capabilities and limitations among faculty, staff, and students, adapting teaching and assessment strategies to incorporate AI tools, and preparing students for an AI-integrated workplace by equipping them with durable skills.
- A [special report](#) by University World News noted that AI is transforming higher education research in various ways, such as advancing large language models, aiding academic writing, equalizing grant opportunities, revolutionizing astronomy, and unlocking brain mysteries.

Relevance to Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs)



In response to these recent developments, the following actions can be considered for IHLs globally:

- Explore ChatGPT Edu and consider integrating it with existing AI tools, if any.
- Enhance AI literacy among staff through learning courses and explore use cases across teaching, research, and administrative processes.
- Adjust schools' curriculum and teaching methods to better utilize AI.
- Develop AI policies to address issues such as academic integrity in student assessments and admissions.
- Foster global collaborations to stay abreast of AI advancements and share knowledge and best practices.

About RiskRadar

RiskRadar is the Office of Risk Management and Compliance (ORMC)'s cutting-edge risk intelligence and sense-making capability. Launched in March 2023, RiskRadar serves as a cornerstone for horizon scanning that enables us to identify mega and macro trends by integrating media monitoring and social listening tools. It transforms conventional risk management at the National University of Singapore, providing expert insights and intelligence to allow for holistic decision-making amidst a fast-evolving landscape.