AI agents for the work around teaching and research

Agents that read your regulations, your funder rules and your student records, prepare the work, and stop for a named person. On infrastructure you control.

THE PROBLEM

The admissions templates we opened email applicants with no step where a person approves, and none of the vendor pages we read offers on-premises hosting. Of 2,892 operations in 30 public education and research interfaces, 1,186 are sent as changes, so tools are chosen one by one.

HOW IT WORKS, IN THREE STEPS

STEP 01

Connect what the agent may read.

Regulations, handbooks, funder rules and committee checklists become knowledge sources, with each reader's permissions kept. Student records, courses and enrolments are reached through the description of an interface you already run; results and survey data through a reporting database, read only.

STEP 02

Decide where it stops.

Every tool call passes your policy. A tool that changes a record, a reply or a return waits for a named person.

STEP 03

Run it where the data lives.

In your data centre or your private cloud, on a model you serve.

THE RULE EVERY AGENT FOLLOWS

It prepares. A named person decides.

Thirty-five agents in nine areas

Admissions and enrolment	Admissions Enquiry. Application Completeness Check. Transcript and Credential Summary. Credit Transfer Preparation
Student services	Student Policy Q&A. Student Enquiry Response. Financial Aid Document Check. Advising Preparation
Registry and records	Progression Check Preparation. Extenuating Circumstances Summary. Academic Appeal Summary. Records Request Preparation
Teaching support	Course Outline Check. Teaching Material Drafting. Feedback Drafting. Module Evaluation Summary
Research support	Grant Call Summary. Grant Application Compliance Check. Ethics Application Check. Literature Search
Library and research data	Library Enquiry. Data Management Plan Check. Open Access Compliance Check
IT and campus services	IT Service Desk. Research Computing Help. Timetable Clash Report. Estates Request Triage
Quality and compliance	Accreditation Evidence. Programme Review Pack. Regulatory Return Preparation. Policy Change Impact
Finance and people	Invoice Matching. Research Cost Check. Procurement Tender Summary. Staff Policy Q&A

Also in the pack: the full list with what each agent reads and where it stops, and the white paper “AI agents inside the university”, with its sources.

Seven questions to ask before an agent touches a student record

01 Where does it run, and where is the model?

02 Does it keep each person’s permissions?

03 Which tools change a record, a reply or a return, and does each wait for a person?

04 Where is the step at which a named person approves?

05 Can it answer a student unseen, and what does it do when it does not know?

06 What is recorded, and for how long?

07 Can we stop one agent, one tool, or all of them, at once?

WHERE THE PLATFORM RUNS TODAY

KAUST ran the full platform in-country, in the university’s own environment.

In production at a top-tier bank in Asia, air-gapped, inside the bank’s own perimeter.

ePLDT, the ICT arm of the Philippines’ largest telco, selected Katonic to power Pilipinas AI, a sovereign AI cloud hosted in the Philippines.

Where to start

One department, one process, invented data first. A student policy assistant can run on the first day, because no student record is touched.

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