An embodiment of the present invention provides a method and electronic device for virtual handwritten input. The method for virtual handwritten input comprises: the electronic device detecting and obtaining in real time position coordinates of a handwriting device in a virtual handwriting region the virtual handwriting region being a region in which a distance measuring detector in the electronic device can effectively measure distances; obtaining a trace formed by the position coordinates and when determining that a current handwritten input is complete obtaining the handwriting trace from the full handwritten input process; recognizing a character corresponding to the handwriting trace obtained and then displaying the recognized character. The method and electronic device for virtual handwritten input provided by an embodiment of the present invention enables simple convenient and low cost handwritten input.