

Artificial intelligence in seminar papers and theses

Guidelines for Independence

- In addition to citing sources and reproduced content, the usage of AI systems (e.g. ChatGPT, Gemini) and their generated content also has to be made transparent and referenced.
- The extent and type of the AI usage must also be documented comprehensibly (see page 2).
- Paraphrases, rephrasings or translations by third-party or AI-generated content must not be presented as your own work. Here, references and supporting evidence are required as well.
- A violation of these principles may be considered plagiarism/attempt to deceive and may result in appropriate consequences under the applicable examination and academic regulations. Therefore, **it is better to be too transparent than not transparent enough**. Clarify the expectations with your advisor.
- A **declaration of independence** must be signed that includes these points.

Ask your instructor/advisor!*

- ☐ What learning goals should i definitely achieve without using AI?
- ☐ I would like to use AI ...
 - ☐ to find new ideas
 - ☐ as a sparring partner for feedback

Ask yourself

What do I want to learn on my own during my academic studies?

Is that okay?

- ☐ Can I include AI-generated passages in the text I am submitting?
- ☐ How should I document my use of AI in my work?
- ☐ Where can I find field-specific guidelines?
- ☐ Are there any specialized AI-tools in my field that researchers use for specific, field-related academic tasks?
- ☐ Who can I contact for further questions?

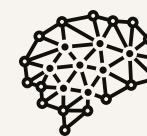
How does an AI text generator like e.g. ChatGPT work*?



Analysing texts
Internet, Wikipedia,
forums, books



Recognizing patterns
Which words and parts of
words often appear together?



Calculating statistics
What is the "most likely"
next word?



Generating text
Word for word –without
understanding the content

Specialized AI tools often deliver better results for specific tasks compared to general-purpose systems, like ChatGPT.

Here are a few examples:

- For literature research and review e.g. Perplexity or Elicit
- For translation and text editing e.g. DeepL
- For understanding theories and research areas e.g. NotebookLM or Consensus



What are the side effects and risks of using AI in your studies – and beyond?*

- **Missed learning opportunities:** Those who rely solely on AI results and do not think for themselves miss out on their own insights and learn less.
- **Deskilling:** When routine tasks or thought processes are outsourced, it hinders the development of one's own skills.
- **Data security:** Personal data, exam content or research data could be reused by tool providers.
- **Discrimination:** AI models provide seemingly neutral answers – but are based on unbalanced training data that also contains stereotypes.
- **Loss of control:** Large AI models are controlled by a small number of tech companies – raising questions about power, responsibility and manipulation.
- **Resource consumption:** Training and running large AI models consumes enormous amounts of energy and water – at the expense of the climate and the environment.

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In addition to the standard references, you should include a list of tools and resources in tabular form in your paper.

List of tools and resources. Disclosure of AI tools used



Where should it be placed? It should be inserted either after the table of contents, list of tables and figures, or in the appendix of your paper.

Tool Used	Purpose of Use	Section of the paper (and page number, if any)	Prompt
Consensus	Literature research	Entire paper	What psychological effects can heavy social media use have?
NotebookLM	Explanation of concepts for better personal understanding	Chapter 2.3 „Online Credibility Research“ (p. 12-15)	What is meant by message credibility?
DeepL	Correction	Occasionally throughout the paper	/
...	...	...	...