

## AI Policy for Term Papers and Theses

AI can be helpful and its use is not generally prohibited, unless stated explicitly otherwise by your instructor. However, the instructors in the English Language and Linguistics department at HHU do not recommend the use of generative AI for writing term papers for the following reasons:

- **Learning aims:** One crucial aim of writing a term paper is to learn to write in the conventions of academic English in the pertinent discipline. The term paper provides an opportunity to practice your writing and get qualified feedback from your instructor.
- **Learning contract:** Your instructor marks your paper for content, but also, and crucially, for language. This marking is based on the mutual agreement that what the instructor marks is what the student produced. Submission of text generated by a machine violates this agreement between student and instructor. You do not want your instructor to mark and give feedback on a text that was generated by a machine.
- **Plagiarism & Ethics:** AI generated texts are based on already existing texts. The texts that these AI tools are trained on cannot be traced back to their original source. It is therefore not possible to provide accurate sources (and citations) for the AI generated texts. This is not only bad academic practice but also unethical and considered plagiarism in academic writing. Additionally, particularly as a student of the humanities, it is important to be aware of the implications of AI usage for writers and artists, the stability of democracy, inequality, and the environment.
- **Facts:** The information provided by AI tools is vague, superficial, and sometimes the tools are confidently wrong. In addition, since the source of the information is unknown, there is a risk that these AI tools will make up references and cite incorrectly.
- **Language:** Although AI generated texts might appear to be written in academic and grammatical English, the writing style is often inappropriate for academic texts. The sentences tend to be long and complex with flowery wording, resulting in a less straightforward and clear presentation of the information. We generally do not recommend this writing style, unless stated otherwise by the instructor. For example, “To render these numeric insights into visual clarity” could just be worded as “the data was plotted using Excel”.

Note: if you are unsure about whether the tool you are using uses AI, you must ask the instructor before submission.

If you have used AI for your work though, please indicate the use of it below. Try to be as precise as possible. Here are some examples:

Name of the programs:

- ChatGPT
- Grammarly

Purpose:

- I used ChatGPT to correct my grammar in the “introduction” section.
- I used ChatGPT to generate code to create the plot in figure XX.
- I used Grammarly for spell-correction.

### **Declaration of AI usage**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (*first name and last name*),  
Matrikelnummer \_\_\_\_\_, hereby confirm that for the term paper/thesis with the  
title \_\_\_\_\_ (*title*),  
in the seminar \_\_\_\_\_ (*course name*)  
with \_\_\_\_\_ (*lecturer/supervisor name*),  
I have used the following AI tools. I have read and acknowledged the AI policy stated above.

For my term paper or thesis:

I have not used any AI tools.

I have used AI. The following list contains all tools that I have used as well as a short description of how and for what purpose these tools were used.

Name of the tools (e.g. Grammarly, DeepL, ChatGPT, Perplexity, Github Copilot):

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Purpose (short description of how and what you used the AI tools for):

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(Place, Date)

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(Signature)