AI Statement for Responsible Use in Academic Work

Artificial Intelligence (AI), particularly generative models such as ChatGPT, presents significant opportunities and notable challenges within academic contexts. While these tools can enhance the research and writing processes, their inappropriate use risks undermining critical thinking, originality, and academic integrity. Drawing upon current academic discussions (Blau et al., 2024; Cornelissen et al., 2024; Gatrell et al., 2024; Larson et al., 2024; Messeri & Crockett, 2024), this statement guides students in responsibly integrating AI into their academic practices.

1. The Role of AI: Enhancing, Not Replacing Intellectual Effort

AI should be viewed strictly as a supportive tool complementing, not substituting, personal intellectual engagement. Generative AI tools lack genuine creativity, nuanced critical thinking, and original insight generation. They operate based on pattern recognition without actual human understanding. The following uses would be considered acceptable, as they require close human supervision and interaction:

- Idea Generation and Initial Brainstorming: Exploring research topics or structuring outlines.
- Writing Support: Assisting with grammar, style, clarity, and structural coherence, ensuring the student's original voice remains central.
- Literature Reviews and Summaries: Condensing extensive texts with mandatory verification and critical review.
- Coding and Preliminary Data Analysis: Assisting with organization and basic analytical tasks under strict human oversight.

2. Risks of AI: Avoiding Illusions of Understanding

AI tools may give a misleading impression of understanding, delivering responses that seem plausible but could contain inaccuracies, biases, or oversimplifications (Messeri & Crockett, 2024). The following uses are hence not acceptable:

- Generating Entire Assignments or Significant Portions: Constitutes plagiarism and academic misconduct.
- Creating or Falsifying Citations: AI frequently generates inaccurate or nonexistent references.
- Replacing Critical and Reflective Thinking: AI-generated content lacks genuine innovation and reflective depth.
- Unverified Data Analysis: All AI-assisted analyses must undergo rigorous human review for accuracy and relevance. AI should not independently interpret (qualitative) data unless explicitly permitted and supervised.

3. AI and Critical Thinking: Strengthening Analytical and Reflective Skills

AI must support, not diminish, critical thinking abilities. As Larson et al. (2024) emphasize, it is crucial to develop both individual critical thinking (logic and evidence-based reasoning) and social critical thinking (questioning assumptions and biases). We require you to:

- Verify all AI-generated content independently.
- Cross-reference AI responses with credible academic resources.

- Reflect critically on potential biases and missing perspectives inherent in AI-generated outputs.

4. Ethical and Transparent AI Use: Institutional Expectations

Transparency and ethics are essential to uphold academic integrity at Leuphana. These entail the following steps:

- Verification: Cross-check all AI-generated information against reputable academic sources.
- Transparency: Clearly disclose AI use within your work, explicitly stating the scope and nature of its use.
- Authorship Integrity: Maintain the student's intellectual input as the primary contribution; AI should never be credited as an author. The responsibility for the content, coherence, and integrity of the thesis/paper remains with the authors, not the AI.
- Compliance with Institutional Policies: Adhere strictly to specific guidelines provided by instructors or institutional regulations.
- Data privacy regulations: Students must ensure that all AI applications comply with relevant data privacy regulations. This involves safeguarding especially personal data and adhering to confidentiality agreements with research partners. Unauthorized processing of private data through AI tools is prohibited.

Student Checklist of Responsible AI Use

Please include this checklist when handing in your assignment:

Responsible AI Use Principles	Confirmation
All AI-generated content has been reviewed and verified for accuracy.	☐ Yes
Human oversight and judgment have been maintained throughout AI use.	☐ Yes
AI use has been transparently disclosed and appropriately cited.	☐ Yes
AI-supported analysis complements, not replaces, human reasoning.	☐ Yes
Confidential or unpublished material was not input into AI platforms.	☐ Yes
AI-generated outputs have been critically assessed for bias or errors.	☐ Yes

Detailed Description of AI Use in Thesis

Section/Aspect of Thesis	AI Tool/Platform Used	Detailed Description of AI Use and Purpose
Finding a topic/research question		
Researching literature/data		
Analyzing of literature/data		
Writing/Editing		
Other		

Student Declaration

Please include this declaration in your assignment:
By signing this document, I affirm my personal responsibility for the ethical integrity, accuracy, and reliability of all AI-assisted content in my thesis and confirm adherence to all academic standards established by the university.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

References

Blau, W., Cerf, V. G., Enriquez, J., Francisco, J. S., Gasser, U., Gray, M. L., ... & Witherell, M. (2024). Protecting scientific integrity in an age of generative AI. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, *121*(22), e2407886121.

Cornelissen, J., Höllerer, M. A., Boxenbaum, E., Faraj, S., & Gehman, J. (2024). Large language models and the future of organization theory. *Organization Theory*, *5*(1), 26317877241239056.

Gatrell, C., Muzio, D., Post, C., & Wickert, C. (2024). Here, there and everywhere: On the responsible use of artificial intelligence (AI) in management research and the peer-review process. *Journal of Management Studies*, *61*(3), 739-751.

Larson, B. Z., Moser, C., Caza, A., Muehlfeld, K., & Colombo, L. A. (2024). Critical thinking in the age of generative AI. *Academy of Management Learning & Education*, *23*(3), 373-378.

Messeri, L., & Crockett, M. J. (2024). Artificial intelligence and illusions of understanding in scientific research. *Nature*, *627*(8002), 49-58.