

Information on the use of AI tools

General guidelines

The use of AI tools is generally permitted for the preparation of theses, term papers and essays at the chair, provided that (1) the teacher does not oppose its use, (2) independent work is performed, and (3) the following basic rules on responsibility, transparency, and data protection are respected:

Student's responsibility: Students hold full responsibility for all content created and statements made in their thesis. They are responsible for the individual verification and reflection of all content created with the support of AI tools. Statements need to be manually assessed for correctness in terms of scientific and factual rigor and must follow copy right laws. Furthermore, statements generated by AI tools can never be accepted as original source but must always be verified by external scientific sources.

Transparent disclosure of the use of AI tools: Scientific writing generally requires the comprehensive and transparent declaration of the primary and secondary sources used and referenced in the text produced. This procedure is considered analogue to AI applications. The use and purpose of AI tools applied need to be transparently declared and specified in the most relevant place in the thesis, most likely the Introduction or Method sections. Furthermore, an overview over the tools students have used must be presented in an overview table placed under the list of references.

Compliance with data protection rights: AI tools are continuously trained based on the information fed into the chat-platform while the retention of personal data remains insecure. It is, therefore, recommended to refrain from the entry of sensitive personal data. Those affected by personal data processing using AI tools must give their explicit consent.

If you have used AI tools in your thesis, you need to:

- (1) present an **overview over the tools you have used/** and for what purposes according to the example presented in **Table 1** below. This overview of tools is placed under the list of references in your thesis.
- (2) follow the guideline of **how to reference** AI generated content (see below).
- (3) make this transparent in the **declaration on originality** [see below; VERLINKEN].

(1) Table 1: Exemplary overview over used AI tools:

[This table should be placed under the list of references in your thesis]

AI Tools/ Version/ Provider	Application	Affected Sections	Prompts/ chat links/ date of content generated	Additional Remarks
Open WebUI; openwebui.ki.zim.uni-passau.de Please note: Open WebUI is provided by the university. Entered data and queries never leave the campus at any time. This means it complies with data protection and equal accessibility. Therefore, the tool should be seen as a viable replacement for external AI chats (e.g. ChatGPT).	Revision of text structure; overview over the background of the research problem	Theoretical part; Background of the research	“What is sustainability”, answer to the author, 30.09.2025, chat link “What are central sustainability issues of coastlines in Thailand”, answer to the author, 30.09.2025, chat link	
ChatGPT Version 3.5, OpenAI: openai.com/chat Please note: see also Microsoft Copilot below (university license available)	Revision of text structure; overview over the background of the research problem	Theoretical part; Background of the research	“What is sustainability”, answer to the author, 30.09.2025, chat link “What are central sustainability issues of coastlines in Thailand”, answer to the author, 30.09.2025, chat link	ChatGPT structure not completely adopted, but adapted
DeepL Translate DeepL SE: https://www.deepl.com/translator	Translation of text passages and interview transcripts	Result section	30.09.2025	
Elicit Research Rabbit	Literature review	Theoretical part	30.09.2025	
Microsoft Copilot https://copilot.cloud.microsoft/ Please note: this is also a large language model comparable to ChatGPT but university license available				

(2) How to reference AI-generated content:

AI is no source in its own right! AI can lead to a scientific source but given the lack of original authorship must not be used as a reference in itself!

You cannot quote the generated content/cannot use it as source and can NOT put it into the list of references!

Statements generated by AI tools can never be accepted as original source but must always be verified by external scientific sources!

(3) Declaration of Originality (Master/Bachelor thesis):

“I hereby declare that I have written this thesis independently and have not used any sources and aids other than those indicated. All content taken from other sources and content generated with the support of AI has been declared in accordance with recognized scientific standards or in accordance with the regulations for making transparent AI content. I am aware that AI-generated texts do not guarantee the quality of content and text. Therefore, I declare that I have used AI tools as aids only, that I have critically reviewed the AI-generated content, and that my own cognitive and creative contribution predominates in this work. I confirm that I have fully understood the content of my work and can independently defend it. I confirm that I have only used AI tools that have been approved by examiners as aids. I am aware that the submission of the thesis is combined with a 15-minute ungraded discussion with an academic committee about the content of the master’s thesis. The aim of the discussion is to verify the independence of the examination work and my individual cognitive and creative contribution to it”

Please note: In case the examinee has already left Passau after thesis’ submission, the 15-minutes ungraded discussion with an academic committee can also take place online if necessary. In this case, the examinee must ensure the provision of updated contact details (especially email address) with the secretary of the chair.

Declaration of Originality (Term paper, essay):

“I hereby declare that I have written this thesis independently and have not used any sources and aids other than those indicated. All content taken from other sources and content generated with the support of AI has been declared in accordance with recognized scientific standards or in accordance with the regulations for making transparent AI content. I am aware that AI-generated texts do not guarantee the quality of content and text. Therefore, I declare that I have used AI tools as aids only, that I have critically reviewed the AI-generated content, and that my own cognitive and creative contribution predominates in this work. I confirm that I have fully understood the content of my work and can independently defend it. I confirm that I have only used AI tools that have been approved by examiners as aids.”