



## **Policy on the Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence in Academic Texts (Graduate Theses and master's and Doctoral Courses)**

### **Article (1): Purpose and Institutional Context**

This policy aims to regulate the responsible and ethical use of artificial intelligence technologies in academic writing and other activities at the University of Sharjah, with particular emphasis on master's and doctoral theses and graduate-level courses. The policy seeks to promote the effective use of technological advancements in support of education and research, while preserving academic integrity, intellectual originality, and scholarly responsibility.

This policy is aligned with international best practices in higher education and with relevant regional frameworks governing the use of artificial intelligence in education and scientific research.

### **Article (2): Scope of Application**

The provisions of this policy apply to:

1. Master's and doctoral theses.
2. Thesis proposals and research plans.
3. Scientific publications stemming from scientific theses
4. Graduate-level courses and programs, including related assignments, coursework, and projects.
5. All academic texts submitted to the Graduate Studies Council, its committees, or thesis supervision and examination committees.

### **Article (3): Definitions**

**Artificial Intelligence (AI):** Technologies and computational systems capable of performing cognitive tasks, including natural language processing and data analysis.

**Generative Artificial Intelligence:** Systems capable of producing new content in response to user inputs.

**The term artificial intelligence – unless otherwise stated – refers to generative artificial intelligence and large language models associated with the production of academic texts.**

**Academic Integrity:** Adherence to honesty, intellectual originality, respect for intellectual property, and full accountability for submitted academic work.



#### **Article (4): Governing Principles**

1. Artificial intelligence shall be regarded as a supportive tool and not a substitute for scholarly reasoning or academic effort.
2. The student bears full responsibility for all academic texts and works submitted under their name.
3. No intellectual or scholarly contribution may be attributed to artificial intelligence tools.
4. The use of artificial intelligence must comply with research ethics, data protection, and privacy requirements.

#### **Article (5): Permitted Uses**

##### **First: Graduate Theses (Master's and Doctoral)**

The use of artificial intelligence is permitted strictly within the following limits:

1. **Linguistic and Editorial Support**
  - Grammar and language correction
  - Improvement of academic style
  - Rephrasing without altering the scholarly meaning
2. **Organizational Support**
  - Suggesting general chapter structures
  - Organizing ideas authored by the student
  - Summarizing original text written by the student
3. **Non-Generative Conceptual Support (It is limited to a general explanation of known concepts without producing a new analysis, innovative theoretical connection, or research-specific conclusions).**
  - Clarification of general concepts
  - Support for brainstorming and idea development

##### **Second: Graduate-Level Courses (Graduate Students)**



Graduate students may use artificial intelligence technologies in completing assignments and coursework associated with graduate-level courses, within the limits of linguistic support, organizational assistance, and non-generative conceptual support, provided that such use does not undermine learning outcomes or intellectual originality.

In all cases, the following conditions must be met:

1. The student remains fully responsible for the content of the submitted academic work.
2. Artificial intelligence shall not be used to generate answers, analyses, or substantive academic content that constitutes the basis of assessment within the course.
3. Students must fully comply with the instructions of the course instructor stated in the course file regarding the use of artificial intelligence in coursework.
4. If you have any doubts or concerns, seek guidance from your supervisor, instructor or academic advisor.
5. Disclosure of artificial intelligence is required when explicitly requested or when such use is substantive and materially affects the submitted work.
6. Written reports and assignments that are generated by AI tools have no value if students do not show clear evidence that they understand the content. Therefore, instructors are encouraged to consider effective ways to assess the student learning outcomes from such assignments and grade them accordingly. Written assignments should be complemented with an oral component, whereby students are required to present and defend their work. The weight of written reports and take-home assignments should be minimized, and more weight shall be given to face-to-face quizzes, exams, and projects.

**Clarifying Note:** For the purposes of this policy, “assignments and coursework” include homework tasks, short research papers, presentations, applied activities, course projects, and any other academic tasks required within graduate-level courses.

#### **Article (6): Prohibited Uses**

The use of artificial intelligence is strictly prohibited in the following cases:

1. The use of AI based tools is strictly forbidden in exams and quizzes.
2. Generating substantive scholarly content, including theoretical frameworks, methodologies, data analysis, discussion, and conclusions.
3. Generating or fabricating research data, statistical results, or academic references.



4. Submitting AI-generated content without disclosure or presenting such content as original scholarly work.
5. Uploading confidential, unpublished, or sensitive data to publicly accessible artificial intelligence tools.
6. Extensive utilization of AI language models such as ChatGPT or any other Generative AI tools to complete your assignment is considered academically dishonest, as it is equal to having someone write your paper, take your quiz, or finish your assignment

#### **Article (7): Disclosure and Transparency**

1. Disclosure of artificial intelligence use is mandatory for course works, thesis proposals and final thesis submissions.
2. Disclosure shall be made through an official form entitled:  
**“Declaration of Artificial Intelligence Use.”**
3. The disclosure must specify the tools used, the nature of use, and the scope and limitations of such use.

#### **Article (8): Governance and Oversight**

1. Instructors/thesis supervisors have the responsibility and the right to check whether an assignment (thesis) is fully or partially generated by AI tools.
2. Thesis supervision committees shall review submitted disclosures and assess the legitimacy of the declared use.
3. The Graduate Studies Council shall oversee compliance with this policy and refer violations, where necessary, to the relevant academic integrity committees.

#### **Article (9): Indicators of Concern**

A case of concern regarding irresponsible use of artificial intelligence may be raised when indicators such as the following are observed:

1. Sudden and unexplained changes in language proficiency or writing style.
2. The presence of inaccurate, unverifiable, or non-existent references.
3. The student’s inability to adequately explain or defend ideas presented in the thesis.

Such indicators do not constitute conclusive evidence of misconduct but warrant further verification.



### **Article (10): Detection Tools and Review Mechanisms**

The University may employ multiple, complementary mechanisms, including:

1. Human academic review and expert judgment.
2. Plagiarism and AI-text detection tools, used solely as supportive instruments.
3. Oral examination and requests for detailed scholarly clarification.

No disciplinary decision shall be based solely on the output of automated detection tools.

### **Article (11): Phased Procedures for Handling Cases**

1. **Academic Verification:** Requesting clarification or revisions without recording a violation.
2. **Extended Review:** Referral to a small academic review committee and requesting detailed explanation from the student.
3. **Formal Referral:** Referral to the Academic Integrity Committee when irresponsible use is substantiated.

### **Article (12): Classification of Cases and Scenarios**

1. **Permissible Use Without Disclosure:** Formal notice and mandatory disclosure and revision.
2. **Unjustified Partial Reliance on AI:** Rewriting of affected sections under direct supervision.
3. **Generation of Substantive Scholarly Content:** Rejection of the work or affected sections and referral to the Academic Integrity Committee.
4. **Fabrication of Data or References:** Considered a serious violation subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the university regulations.

### **Article (13): Awareness and Prevention**

The University shall promote awareness among graduate students regarding responsible use of artificial intelligence. The disclosure form shall serve as a preventive and educational tool rather than a punitive measure.

Course instructors and thesis supervisors play a central role in awareness and preventive measures as follows:

1. Discussing with students in the first-class meeting, the impact of AI tools on education and other fields, the pros and cons of its use, and the approach of the



- university policy to regulate its use. Explain to students the potential drawbacks of heavily relying on ChatGPT or any other AI tools.
2. Including ChatGPT and other AI generative tools in their academic integrity statement on their syllabus.
  3. Communicating clearly whether and how generative AI tools may be used in the various courses/thesis they teach/supervise.
  4. **Instructions to be inserted in the course syllabus:**

Artificial Intelligence (AI) language models, like ChatGPT, are trained in a large body of information that allows it to generate responses to questions and prompts. While technology is still evolving, there are certain inaccuracies that could be generated from the AI tools. Students are responsible for all submitted work including any errors or omissions provided by the tool. Students are asserting that the work submitted is generated by them individually or by the group unless they indicate otherwise using proper attribution for the source. Submitting work, without proper attribution, that has been generated by an individual other than the student or created or assisted by a computer, including AI, constitutes a violation of Student Conduct and is subject to penalty. If in doubt, consult with the course instructor on the acceptable use of the AI tools.

#### **Article (14): Final Provisions**

1. To keep pace with technological developments, this regulation will be reviewed periodically on an annual basis by the Artificial Intelligence in Scientific Research committee of the Graduate Studies Council.
2. This policy complements and does not supersede existing academic integrity policies.
3. This policy shall enter into force upon formal approval.



### **Appendix (A): Declaration of Artificial Intelligence Use**

**Disclosure through this form does not imply automatic permission for the uses mentioned below, and the legality of the use is subject to the provisions of the regulations and the discretion of the supervisor and the competent committees.**

**Student Name:**

**Program / Degree:** Master's  Doctoral

**Thesis Title:**

#### **AI Tools Used (if any):**

I did/will use generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini, Perplexity, etc.) for the following purposes (tick all that apply):

- Idea Generation (e.g., research problem/design, hypothesis)
- Literature Search (e.g., summarising, identifying sources)
- Methods and Experiment Design (e.g., setup, model tuning)
- Data Analysis (e.g., coding, interpretation)
- Theoretical Development (e.g., conceptual analysis)
- Code Development (e.g., generating algorithms, scripts)
- Visualisation and Presentation (e.g., graphics, formatting)
- Editing (e.g., grammar, readability)
- Writing Assistance (e.g., structuring, paraphrasing)
- Citation Formatting (e.g., organising references)
- Others, please specify:

#### **Nature and Scope of Use:**

I hereby declare that my use of artificial intelligence technologies was limited to the purposes stated above, and that I bear full responsibility for the originality, accuracy, and integrity of this academic work.

**Student Signature / Date**



## References

1. **University of Georgia. (2023).** *Policy on unauthorized assistance and the use of artificial intelligence tools in graduate theses and dissertations.* <https://grad.uga.edu/index.php/academics/policies/unauthorized-assistance/>

**How this source was used:** Provided the foundational principle that AI use in theses is restricted and subject to approval and disclosure, forming the basis for responsibility and escalation provisions.

2. **University of Oxford, Mathematical Institute. (2023).** *Guidance on the use of generative artificial intelligence in dissertations.* <https://www.maths.ox.ac.uk/study-here/postgraduate-study/current-students/generative-ai-guidance>

**How this source was used:** Informed the distinction between permissible linguistic support and prohibited content generation in dissertations.

3. **University College London. (2023).** *Guidance on the use of generative artificial intelligence for doctoral researchers.* <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/doctoral-school/skills-development/research-integrity/generative-ai>

**How this source was used:** Supported disclosure requirements and researcher accountability throughout the doctoral lifecycle.

4. **United Arab Emirates University. (2024).** *Generative artificial intelligence usage policy.* <https://www.uaeu.ac.ae/en/about/pdfs/policies-2025/generative-ai-policy.pdf>

**How this source was used:** Provided regional alignment within the UAE and reinforced disclosure and ethical use principles.

5. **Princess Nourah bint Abdulrahman University. (2023).** *Generative AI use policy.*

**How this source was used:** Contributed strong governance structure, definitions, and role differentiation between students and faculty.



6. **King Abdulaziz University. (2023).** *Policies for the use of artificial intelligence in education and scientific research.*

**How this source was used:** Informed policy structure, continuous review mechanisms, and institutional governance language.

7. **Cairo University. (2025).** *Policy on the ethical use of artificial intelligence in education and scientific research.*

**How this source was used:** Strengthened ethical framing, researcher responsibility, and emphasis on verification of outputs.

8. **UNESCO. (2023).** *Guidance on generative artificial intelligence in education and research.* <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/guidance-generative-ai-education-and-research>