

WUR – Rules and Guidelines for Student Use of GenAI

These rules and guidelines have been enacted on July 14, 2025

How do I use Generative AI responsibly?

Working in an academic environment requires using available tools responsibly, and Generative AI ('GenAI') is no exception. To ensure ethical and effective use, consider the following key points when deciding whether and how to incorporate GenAI tools into your academic work.

What is Generative AI?

Generative artificial intelligence is a technology that generates content (textual, visual, audio) based on previously learned patterns by a model, sometimes facilitated through the use of natural language conversational interfaces.

1. Always check your course guide in Brightspace

We recognise that students can use GenAI to support their learning and carry out assignments. However, different courses may have different policies regarding the use of GenAI. Always check your course guide in Brightspace to understand whether, and to what extent, GenAI is permitted in your coursework.

- If there is no information in your course guide, using GenAI to generate the content of your assignments is not allowed and can be considered as an irregularity or even [fraud](#). [See: article 16, paragraph 3 and article 22 of the Rules and Regulations of the Examining Boards of Wageningen University](#).
- This also applies for theses; seek guidance from your lecturer or supervisor.
- If you are uncertain about the rules, seek guidance from your lecturer or supervisor.

2. Use GenAI to enhance, not replace, your academic skills

GenAI should be seen as a supplement, not a substitute for academic skills. Use GenAI tools in ways that support and enhance your academic abilities rather than relying on them to do the work for you. The same applies to foundational knowledge in your field of study.

- Ensure you have a solid understanding of your subject to assess GenAI-generated information.
- Verify GenAI-generated insights through credible academic sources.
- Check [Student Support](#) for responsible GenAI usage examples.

3. Maintain academic integrity and be transparent

You are never allowed to submit work entirely generated by GenAI as your own or fabricate research data. Doing so constitutes academic fraud, as outlined in the '[Rules and regulations Examining Boards](#)' and '[Netherlands Code of Conduct for Scientific Practice](#)'. When using GenAI tools, be transparent about their role in your work. You are ultimately responsible for the content you submit and for the accuracy and integrity of your work.

- Always indicate when and how you have used GenAI and ensure that any generated content is properly cited.
- When using GenAI for a project or a thesis, keep an archive of GenAI prompts and outputs for transparency and reproducibility. This allows you to document your GenAI usage transparently and reproduce your work if questions arise later.
- If you are unsure how to cite GenAI-generated material, see [Student Support](#) for guidance.

4. Use GenAI tools consciously and critically

GenAI tools come with risks and limitations. They are not always reliable and can generate biased, misleading, or incorrect information. Therefore, you should critically evaluate the output for biases (e.g., social, cultural) and assess whether the generated viewpoints align with your intended perspective.

- Cross-reference GenAI-generated content with reputable sources and academic literature and validate the source of the information.
- Provide clear and specific instructions when using a GenAI tool to achieve more accurate and relevant results. The quality of the output often depends on how well the tool is guided.
- Consider the broader impact of GenAI usage, including its environmental footprint. GenAI models require significant computational power, which contributes to energy consumption and sustainability concerns. Be mindful of when and how you use GenAI, making informed decisions about its necessity, purpose, and potential impact.

5. Mind your data security

Anything that you feed into external GenAI tools like ChatGPT may be stored by the company indefinitely and might be used in unspecified ways. This means that you should think carefully about what information you provide them. It is your responsibility to prevent harmful, undesirable or otherwise sensitive forms of data, be it personal or otherwise, from being shared, stored, or misused in ways that could compromise privacy, security, or ethical considerations.

- Never put (personal) data of others, information that infringes on intellectual property rights or sensitive or confidential (research) data into a chatbot or any other public GenAI tool.
 - Be aware of institutional policies regarding data usage. Some databases, chair groups, internship companies, etc., might not allow you to share their data with GenAI tools, as this may violate agreements with financiers of projects or may even violate intellectual property rights (IPs). For more information, see: [Personal data protection regulations WUR](#) and [Data policy at WUR](#)
 - Always respect copyright laws and the intellectual property rights of others. Do not upload materials that are copyright-protected in a GenAI tool, this can have severe consequences.
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