



The use of generative AI in theses and project work at the department 'Biobased Resources in the Bioeconomy' (340b)

The University of Hohenheim's stance

The University of Hohenheim [enables the use of generative artificial intelligence \(AI\) tools in studies](#). However, as some consider the use of text generated by AI to be plagiarism - as it was not the student who produced the text, but someone else (namely the AI) - the Senate's recommendations leave it to each individual examiner to decide whether or not to permit the use of AI tools. The Senate's recommendation also assumes that the student has only made a significant independent contribution to the work submitted if he/she has described transparently what AI systems were applied and how they were used in creating the work. Therefore, **the use of AI must be discussed with the respective supervisor** and clear rules for its use must be agreed upon.

Rules of the department 340b for using generative AI in examinable work

The use of generative AI tools is allowed in theses and project work carried out in collaboration with the department 340b under the following conditions:

- It is mandatory for students to report the aids used, listing the tools and the fields of application of these tools. The official declaration ([English](#) / [deutsch](#)) from the examination office must be used.
- Students are accountable for the content of their examinable work, as text generated by AI tools may be well composed but can still contain mistakes and violate regulations or norms.
- Exceptions can be made to the rules outlined above by individual supervisors at the department.

If the examiner has the impression that the declaration of originality does not correspond to the truth, for example because parts of the text do not fit together stylistically, he/she can proceed as in the case of suspected plagiarism. If the examiner recognizes that good scientific practice has been violated (e.g. because fictitious sources have been cited), this can also have a direct impact on the grading.

A general call for precaution

Although generative AI can assist in creating valuable and insightful content, it is not a simple task and demands proficiency in both technical skills and knowledge of ethical considerations. Therefore, as the technology is still in development, we **do not recommend using it in scientific writing**. If students still decide to use it, we would like to call for precaution. Users should, for instance, be aware of stereotypical AI answers.

As generative AI is trained on a large dataset of text, it is very likely that this data may contain societal biases. Consequently, the model will reflect these biases in the output data and thus reinforce existing societal issues and discrimination. For this reason, users should be aware of this potential bias when using generative AI in higher education and critically reflect on each statement created by the tools.

In addition, leading AI developers are increasingly facing lawsuits over alleged copyright infringement by their programs' outputs and the data they are trained on. Students and lecturers who reuse AI-



generated texts or other content risk infringing the original authors' copyright if the AI was trained on data and information subject to copyright. This can lead to incalculable legal consequences.

Finally, generative AI can assist, but never replace your own process of learning. Writing scientific text is a learning method that needs to be fostered.

Further information regarding the use of AI in exams at University of Hohenheim: <https://www.uni-hohenheim.de/en/use-of-generative-ai-in-exams>