Mandatory disclosure on the use of generative AI in Master's and Doctoral theses

Guidelines and useful information

From the 2026 winter semester, all master's or doctoral theses must include a preface in which you must declare your use of generative AI in the preparing and writing of your research work. If you did not use any such tools, you must also explicitly state this. Failure to include this declaration will result in the initial submission of your thesis being delayed.

The general statement has two objectives:

- to demonstrate, through transparency, your responsible conduct of research and integrity by showing;
- to enable members of the evaluation committee for your thesis to make an informed assessment of the originality of your contribution.

The mandatory disclosure complies with the guidelines for the responsible use of generative AI in master's and doctoral theses at Université Laval, which are detailed in the toolkit you must consult.

To help you prepare the mandatory disclosure on the use of AI, the FESP recommends that you keep a logbook of your AI usage throughout your research. This logbook allows you to continuously document your use of generative AI throughout your journey and encourages critical reflection on its impact on the development of your research skills. See the section "Documenting a logbook" on the Responsible Use of Generative AI page, where you will also find a template you can use to this end.

Notes

- This statement does not replace the specific citations of AI-generated text that you must include in the body of your master's or doctoral theses according to the bibliographic style and standards applicable to your program or field. The library maintains references for certain disciplines as well as a list of suggested styles for various departments and faculties at the University. Discuss with your research supervisor the citation requirements you must follow, and consult the library's website to fully understand the rules related to citing AI-generated text.

- This statement is in addition to the declaration required when the master's or doctoral thesis includes an article. For more information, see the Types of Master's and Doctoral theses and Section Content pages on our website.

Content of the statement

The mandatory disclosure should include the following elements:

- With the agreement of [my research supervisor], generative artificial intelligence tools [and other tools, if applicable] were not used in the research, production, nor writing of [this master's thesis/doctoral thesis].

OR

- With the agreement of [my research supervisor], generative artificial intelligence tools [and other tools, if applicable] were used [specify in which cases] in the research, production, and writing of [this master's thesis/doctoral thesis], and the content they generated was systematically cross-checked.

- They were used to [description of the task for the relevant research stages or activities and indication of the measures implemented to ensure responsible use].

- Contributions generated by generative AI are explicitly mentioned in [the "Methodology" section/footnotes/an appendix/the "Acknowledgments" section/the bibliography].

In addition, it is important to specify the ethical considerations that guided your responsible use of generative AI and to indicate the measures you implemented to comply with the guidelines, to maintain the development of your research skills, verify the validity of the data, respect copyright, ensure confidentiality, or protect research data.

Be sure to also explicitly state the use of generative AI features integrated into office tools (e.g., Word, Excel, Canva, etc.).

Examples

Here are some examples of disclosure regarding the possible uses of generative AI for different fields of study[1] , at various stages of the research process.

This text is applicable to all domains.

> With the agreement of my research supervisor, generative AI tools were used at various stages of the research process and the content they generated was systematically cross-checked.

> Generative AI tools were used to support conceptual exploration, specifically for identifying suitable research protocols and exploring various theoretical frameworks. These tools also facilitated literature review through the synthesis of previously analyzed articles and the thematic organization of sources.

> [See the paragraph below for details on each field of study.]

> Finally, during the writing phase, AI tools contributed to stylistic revision, grammatical verification, and the reformulation of certain passages to improve clarity and scientific rigor.

> Details of these uses are provided in the methodology section of this doctoral thesis.

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[1] These examples were prepared using declarations generated by the *Claude 4.0 Sonnet* generative AI tool and cross-checked by experts in the relevant fields of study (Anthropic. (2025). (July 16 version) [LLM]. claude.ai).

Field of humanities and social sciences

[...]

During data collection, they enabled the enrichment of interview transcripts and preliminary thematic coding. In the analysis phase, they were used for coding qualitative data and producing preliminary visualizations. At all times, I ensured data confidentiality by using a secure AI tool.

[...]

Field of science and engineering

[...]

During data collection, they enabled the pre-processing of raw data, preliminary labeling of samples, and the generation of exploratory analysis scripts. In the analysis phase, they were used to optimize processing algorithms, generate complex data visualizations, and identify preliminary patterns. At all times, I ensured data confidentiality by using a secure AI tool.

[...]

Field of health sciences

[...]

During data collection, they enabled the preprocessing of clinical data, the preliminary coding of health variables, and the standardization of measurements according to medical nomenclatures. In the analysis phase, they were used for exploratory statistical analysis, the generation of health data visualizations, and the identification of preliminary correlations between clinical variables. At all times, I ensured data confidentiality by using a secure AI tool.

[...]

Some resources for evaluating and describing the contributions of generative AI

- [Method for reporting the use of AI tools based on the CRediT taxonomy of contributions to research and writing](#)
- [Generator of usage maps describing the different forms and degrees of contribution (creation, modification, analysis) of generative AI tools used during research and writing](#)