



Guidelines on the Use of Generative AI Tools in SOR Assignments, Projects and Dissertations

1. Purpose and Scope

Generative AI tools, such as ChatGPT, Google Gemini, Copilot and similar technologies, can assist students in brainstorming ideas, clarifying concepts, enhancing writing, and supporting other learning activities. However, their use must align with academic integrity principles and institutional policies. These guidelines outline appropriate and ethical AI use in assignments, projects and dissertations assessed by the Department of Statistics and Operations Research at the University of Malta.

2. Permissible Uses

Students may use generative AI tools for:

- Brainstorming and idea generation.
- Clarifying concepts and understanding topics.
- Refining writing style, grammar, and coherence.
- Generating summaries of academic texts (if allowed by copyright laws).
- Coding assistance.

3. Prohibited Uses

The following uses of AI tools are considered academic misconduct:

- Submitting AI-generated text as original work without proper acknowledgement.
- Using AI to analyse data, fabricate data, references, or research findings.
- Allowing AI to complete entire sections of an assignment, project or dissertation.
- Using AI-generated content without critical review or understanding.
- Relying on AI for assessments meant to evaluate independent analytical skills.

4. Disclosure and Citation

- If AI tools are used to assist in writing, their use must be disclosed. For dissertations, include a note in the Acknowledgements section: *"I would like to acknowledge the use of generative AI tools (specifically [Name of Tool, e.g., ChatGPT]) solely for the purpose of copyediting, proofreading, and improving the linguistic clarity of this text. All conceptual framework, data analysis, and original arguments presented in this dissertation are entirely my own."*
- Specific AI-generated content should be cited in accordance with institutional guidelines. Example citation: *"This section was generated with assistance from ChatGPT (OpenAI, 2026), with modifications and verification by the author."*

- For instances where generative AI was utilised beyond basic editing, such as for brainstorming, code generation, or structural assistance, example prompts or queries given to the generative AI model, as well as a description of the steps taken by the student to verify the accuracy of the output, must be provided in an appendix.

5. Ensuring Academic Integrity

- Students remain responsible for verifying AI-generated content for accuracy, bias, and appropriateness.
- AI tools should supplement, not replace, critical thinking and independent analysis.
- Always cross-check AI-generated information with credible academic sources.

6. Instructor Discretion

- Course tutors may specify additional AI usage rules in their instructions.
- Students should seek clarification on AI tool usage when in doubt.

7. Ethical Considerations

- Respect intellectual property and copyright laws when using AI tools.
- Be transparent about AI assistance to maintain academic honesty.
- Consider the potential biases and limitations of AI-generated content.

8. Consequences of Misuse

All work submitted for assessment should be solely your own original work, or in the case of group work, solely the work of the group. Unless explicitly allowed by your tutor, if you use AI tools to assist with the completion of an assignment/project/dissertation and submit this as if it was your own work, this will be considered cheating.

A student may be asked to attend an oral examination if there is a suspicion that work submitted for assessment includes unacknowledged or forbidden AI-generated contributions. If there is a serious mismatch between the quality of work submitted and the performance of the student during the oral examination, a report shall be made to the University Assessment Disciplinary Board ([University Assessment Regulations \(2009\)](#) - Article 38(1)(f), p.17).

You are encouraged to keep copies of your drafts and research notes when producing work for assessment. It is advisable to save multiple copies of your work rather than overwriting the same file repeatedly. These will help you show the originality of your work and how you developed it during an oral examination.

9. Conclusion

Generative AI tools can be valuable learning aids when used responsibly. Students are encouraged to use AI ethically, ensuring that their work reflects their own understanding, analysis, and academic integrity. These important skills are required to succeed in your university course and future career. If you rely on AI tools for your assessment, you will be denying yourself the opportunity to develop these important skills.