

AI Policy for Written Work



Scope

As per summer semester 2026, this policy applies to written coursework, examination papers and final theses within the Professorship of Religious Studies with a focus on Religious Media Practices. It supplements the assignment brief and the current examination regulations.

Definitions

An AI system is a digital tool that, in response to input, generates new content or transforms, expands, summarises, translates or evaluates existing content. AI-generated content includes, in particular, text, images, code, outlines, translations, analyses or comparable outputs of such a tool. Supportive use means: the tool assists in the work process but does not replace the student's own academic work.

Principle of independence

The work must remain, overall, an independent achievement of the student. Students are entirely responsible for the content, argumentation, sources, data, translations and conclusions. Permissible use of AI may support one's own academic work but must not replace the academic substance or the relevant assessments.

Permitted use

AI tools may be used in various stages of the work process, provided that their use is transparently documented and critically reviewed.

Simple proofreading tools, reference management software and non-generative search tools are not subject to documentation requirements.

The use of AI to assist with translations is permitted.

Prohibited use

Expressly prohibited is the use of AI systems for topic selection, structuring written work, linguistic revision, summarising one's own notes, coding and evaluating data, or visualising data; these are independent tasks to be performed by students, the practice of which is a central component of the study process in the humanities and social sciences and thus forms the basis for its success.

It is also not permitted to reproduce AI-generated texts, analyses, interpretations, references or other content. Similarly, fabricated sources, data or quotations are not permitted, nor is the submission of a piece of work that is essentially AI-generated as one's own work.

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Contact data

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Documentation and labelling

All relevant use of AI must be listed in a list of resources. The list must include the tool, purpose, stage of work and relevant sections of the work, specifying the page number or page range (from – to).

Data protection and confidential content

Do not enter any personal, confidential, sensitive or copyright-protected data into AI tools unless you have permission to do so or there is a suitable legal basis for doing so. This applies in particular to interview transcripts, examination papers, case studies involving individuals, unpublished research data and third-party texts that have not been released.

Where possible, use AI tools or access points that have been approved by the university or are data protection-friendly.

Consequences of breaches

Unauthorised, undisclosed or misleading use of AI may be regarded as the use of unauthorised aids or as deception. The applicable examination regulations and the decisions of the relevant examiners or examination boards shall prevail.