Universitat de Girona
Escola de Doctorat

Declaration on the use of artificial intelligence in the doctoral thesis

Document approved by the Managing Committee of the School of Doctoral Studies in session of 17 December 2025

This document sets out a model declaration and general guidelines for the responsible use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the preparation of doctoral theses, in accordance with European best practices and the GAIDeT framework, to identify and record GAI tasks in a structured manner.

It provides AUTHORS with a standard way to demonstrate responsible and transparent AI use, thereby strengthening the credibility of their work.

It simplifies evaluation for REVIEWERS by offering additional context for assessing methodological decisions and determining the real scope of AI use as either a legitimate tool or a misuse.

It helps READERS interpret the results of the study accurately by understanding the extent to which AI assistance was involved.

Please note that the use of Generative AI entails **certain risks and may lead to serious academic consequences**. Specifically, the evaluation of your thesis may be adversely affected if you employ Generative AI with confidential data, copyright-protected materials, or personal information without meeting the requirements applicable in each case (such as securing consent from the individuals concerned, obtaining authorization from rights holders, or complying with the University's guidelines).

MODEL DECLARATION OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN THE DOCTORAL THESIS [1]

I, **[Full name of the doctoral candidate]**, declare that in the preparation of the present doctoral thesis, entitled [*Title of the thesis*], I have **[NOT / YES]** used generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools responsibly and transparently, in accordance with principles of academic integrity and the guidelines of the School of Doctoral Studies.

Tools used:
[Indicate full name, version, and provider of each tool, e.g. ChatGPT (GPT-4.5, OpenAI), Grammarly (2025), DeepL Write (Pro)]

Scope of AI use as technical or linguistic support:	**NO**	**YES**
Grammatical revision		
Translation		
Outline generation		
Resumes		

[1] This document must be submitted, completed and signed, and in PDF format, during the doctoral thesis review process. The form can be downloaded during the online process or on the Forms web page.

Verification of textual coherence		
Generation of titles & subtitles		

Limit of AI use in research-generated content:	**NO**	**YES**
Conceptualisation		
Idea generation		
Definition of research objective		
Formulation of research questions and hypotheses		
Assessment of feasibility and risk		
Preliminary hypothesis testing		
Literature review		
Methodology		
Software development and automation		
Data analysis		
Data management		
Generation of images from texts		
Interpretation of results		
Conclusions		

Specification:
All information obtained through AI has been verified and validated by me and I have informed my monitoring team of these validations.

Privacy:
When using AI tools, I have provided personal data with the due authorisation of the interested parties and in accordance with the ethical criteria of the University of Girona. **[NO / YES]**

Responsibility:
I assume full responsibility for the content, accuracy, and integrity of the thesis, including those parts in which I have used AI.

Date and signature:
[Place, date]

[Full name of the doctoral candidate]
[Doctoral Programme / School of Doctoral Studies]

ANNEX

Can I use AI text generators like ChatGPT or similar?

Yes, of course. But before you do, you should be aware that there is a possibility you might misuse them. Therefore, you must consider:

- The risk to professionalism and ethics.
- The key expectation of what academic integrity is.

This means that you can use text or content generators as part of the improvement process, but **under no circumstances** to replace your ability to write your doctoral thesis.

Will it be considered plagiarism if I use the results obtained without attributing them?

Yes, of course. In your thesis, it is essential that there is no doubt as to which words or results are your own and which originate from the text or content generator, and therefore from other sources.

Full and explicit acknowledgement of the source of the material you use through documentary analysis is required.

Key considerations:

- The text results obtained do not originate from a personal communication and, therefore, you will be committing plagiarism if you use them in whole or in part without quotation marks or reference to a specific original source.
- The terms of use for generative AI such as ChatGPT include requirements and restrictions for the use of the output. This implies that it is protected by copyright and users are ultimately responsible.

Is it necessary to use a methodology for presenting and analysing the results?

Yes, of course. This is part of the commitment to academic integrity and allows us to have confidence in the value of your own intellectual abilities in the age of artificial intelligence.

Therefore, in your doctoral thesis, it is essential to describe how you have used the generative AI text tool:

1. You will need to detail the process, the questions asked, prompts, and a sample of the results obtained in a methods section.
2. You must place the full text or content of the results obtained in an appendix or supplementary materials for possible validation.
3. You must treat the content as the output of an algorithm and attribute the results to the algorithm's author and the original source.

Recommendations for AI text generators

1. **Do not assume** that input information (including personal, confidential or sensitive information) will not be used.
2. **Do not assume** that the output information from generative AI text systems is reliable, accurate or rigorous.
3. **Do not assume** that the output from generative AI systems is of high quality or representative of the available scientific information.

Remember

- The vast majority of companies providing text-based generative AI services use a click-through agreement, and these are contracts.
- All current AI language models are very good at appearing confident and certain, but at the same time they give completely wrong answers.
- You cannot fully trust any output information when you ask them questions.
- The training data used by generative AI is indiscriminately taken from the web and is not curated according to its quality.
- This also means that they are likely to reproduce the noise and content biases they find on the internet.

Conflict in the use of AI regarding copyright and copying

- Content generated using AI is protected, provided it includes elements that express the intellectual creation of the original work by a human author and not by another generative AI.
- Authorship must always be attributed and be human. Otherwise, we would be infringing on the author's work.
- Pending lawsuits and the lack of established case law, due to the novelty of the issue, mean that caution is required.
- Reproducing the original elements of a work and adding one's own contributions constitutes the creation of a derivative work, a right exclusive to the author and subject to their authorisation or consent.

Relevant legislation

- **Directive 2001/29/EC** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 May 2001 on the harmonisation of certain aspects of copyright and related rights in the information society.
- **Directive (EU) 2019/790** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2019 on copyright and related rights in the Digital Single Market.

Recommended-use traffic-light table for AI by disciplinary area

Disciplinary area	Permitted use 🟢	Use with caution 🟡	Discouraged / prohibited use 🔴
Health Sciences	Linguistic improvement of texts, preparation of non-clinical figures, translation, drafting correspondence.	Support for literature review or summary generation (always with human validation).	Generation of clinical data or interpretation of medical results; use with patient data in public AI systems.
Technology / Engineering	Style editing, technical documentation, support with pseudocode or software comments.	Generation of code snippets or preliminary designs (with review and attribution).	Automatic code development without review; automated security analysis or technical results.
Experimental Sciences (physics, chemistry, biology)	Writing introductions, abstracts, data visualization.	Assistance in exploratory analysis or experimental design (if verified and documented).	Automatic generation of hypotheses, simulations, or interpretations of results as final material.
Social Sciences	Translation, style and structure improvement, support in thematic coding or textual analysis (with oversight).	Literature summarization or questionnaire generation (always with supervision).	Automated analysis of sensitive social data; drafting theoretical arguments without verification.
Humanities	Linguistic revision, translation, support for terminology searches or text comparison.	Generation of outlines or interpretive summaries (if critically reviewed).	Writing interpretive chapters or automated critical analysis; imitation of authorial styles.