



Student scientific writing with AI-supported tools: Supplement to the Anthropology Writing Guidelines at the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology

Working Group for Artificial Intelligence at the Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology (KIKSA), April 2025¹

Permitted materials

In each course, the lecturer determines the tools permitted for the examination. If there are any uncertainties or doubts, these should be clarified with the lecturer at the beginning of the course. Anything that is not explicitly permitted may not be used in the examination. If AI-supported tools are used in courses or as part of final theses, the rules of good scientific practice continue to apply. In particular, it must be ensured that, despite the use of AI, a sufficient level of original intellectual achievement (“threshold of creativity”) is maintained, so that the work is not classified as plagiarism or ghostwriting. The decision as to whether this threshold has been met lies with the lecturer.

These aids must be labelled transparently and comprehensibly in the agreed citation style (cf. the [“Anthropology Writing Guidelines”](#) applicable at the Department). Not only text-generating tools (e.g. ChatGPT), but also other AI-based tools (e.g. for translation, data analysis, transcription, spelling correction) must be mentioned.

Documentation

If AI tools are used, this must be made transparent in the methodological section, in the annex, in a statement, or a catalogue of permitted materials used (in addition to the bibliography). It must be clear which tool was used, how, to what extent and for what purpose. A catalogue of permitted material used can look like this, for example:

AI-based permitted material	Use	Affected sections of the thesis	Notes
deepL	Translation of text passages	1. Chapter 1.2. 2. Quotations/paraphrasing of Polish-language literature	1. The Executive Summary was translated from German and was slightly revised afterwards. 2. The quotations/paraphrases were translated into German by means of DeepL, the quality of the translation was checked independently.
Midjourney	Creation of illustrations	Fig. 12, 23, 24	The prompts were included for each individual illustration.
OpenAI ChatGPT 4	Suggestion for structuring the chapters	Chapters 3 and 7	The suggestions were revised.

Examples taken from the University of Vienna Guidelines “Dealing with AI in courses and exams”

¹ The English translation of the section ‘Research and writing with AI-supported tools’ was created using DeepL and revised.

According to Chicago Manual Style ([as of 2024](#)), if specific text sections were generated by AI, the information should be included in the footnote and not in the bibliography if no direct, publicly accessible link to the interaction can be provided. This differs from the usual Chicago Manual Style practice of not citing sources in footnotes. The footnote can then look like this:

1. Text generated by ChatGPT, OpenAI, March 7, 2023, <https://chat.openai.com/chat>.

ChatGPT is considered the author, OpenAI the publisher. If the prompt is not mentioned in the text, it can be integrated into the footnote:

1. ChatGPT, response to “Write your prompt here,” OpenAI, March 7, 2023.

If the citation is used in the text, it may look like this:

“(ChatGPT, March 7, 2023).”

Here too, Chicago Manual Style stipulates that the source should not be included in the bibliography if no publicly accessible text is available.

Data Protection

Please pay attention to the issue of data protection when dealing with AI tools. Personal data (e.g. field research data, interviews) may not be processed (e.g. uploaded, transcribed or analysed) with AI tools without explicit consent. Even with consent, the General Data Protection Regulation (EU GDPR) must be observed (e.g. data may not be stored or processed outside the EU). Particular attention must be paid to confidentiality, as the uploaded data is often used by the AI tools for training purposes. In addition to anonymising the data, tools that only store data locally (on your own device) or on a secure server at the University of Vienna are suitable for data protection-compliant work. Please also note that AI-generated texts are currently not protected by copyright, as they were not created by natural persons.

As a general rule, you are ultimately responsible for your text and the way you work - the ability to use AI critically and responsibly must be learnt. Please also note that the use of AI consumes considerable resources.

The field of AI is rapidly changing. Therefore, this document cannot guarantee correctness and completeness. Detailed and up-to-date guidelines for scientific writing and working with AI can be found on the [website of the University of Vienna](#), and on the [CTL website](#) (“Services for students” -> “Resources” -> “Handouts”).