Annexe No. 3 – Rector's Ordinance R 640

AI as a tool for creating original content

From the perspective of 'risk' and the associated need to specify the use of AI tools in detail, the most significant tools are those that generate original content. The following use of AI tools is acceptable to USB, but it **must always be specified in detail**. The main principle here is that if a student uses generated content, **they are obliged to cite it**. As always, **it is necessary to verify the accuracy and relevance of all information obtained in this way**.

Method of use	Description and examples
Inspiration and brainstorming	Gaining inspiration for the thematic focus of the thesis, its structure, research design, or obtaining ideas for completing certain sections of the papar. These are the first steps on the creative journey towards any piece of work and should primarily be based on one's own knowledge of the topic, a review of the literature, or consultations with a supervisor or tutor. It is therefore **unacceptable to leave these steps entirely to AI**. However, it is **acceptable**, for example, to input into the AI tool some suggestions or ideas inspired by your own studies of the literature (even if the literature is partly recommended by the AI) and then ask the AI whether you have overlooked anything important relating to the topic.
Proposed text structure	AI can suggest a text structure, including the division into chapters. If the structure generated in this way is adopted, even with formal adjustments, such use of AI must be specified. The outline is the backbone of any paper, both during its preparation and when reading it.
Data analysis	The use of AI for data analysis is permitted provided it does not conflict with the chosen methodology and has been discussed with your supervisor or tutor. It is not necessary to declare the use of statistical programmes such as R or Statistica (apart from the standard mention of the use of the software in question in the methodology section). What is problematic is an approach such as: 'I have this data; suggest what I should do with it [and process it in this way straight away].' Apart from tools such as ChatGPT, **Julius**, for example, is capable of processing data in this way. Such an approach is **permissible only** if the data in question is processed without the use of AI in an appropriate manner and there is an effort to subsequently 'extract' something extra from it

	using AI. Otherwise, such an approach is **completely unacceptable**. The situation is different when it comes to a question such as: 'I have this data; I would like to calculate its correlation or, if applicable, linear regression. Please, can you do that?' **We** clearly **know what** we want to do, but **we may not know** exactly **how** to do it in a specific statistical environment. To distinguish between these potentially different uses, the specific application of AI in this context needs to be described in sufficient detail.
Images and graphics	An image is usually considered an auxiliary element, not the student's own creation. It is therefore possible to use AI and specify this use, but it is also necessary to cite the source (in the image caption, for example, state the tool and date of creation, such as 'This image was created using the DALL·E3 tool (OpenAI, 2024; created 15 April 2026).'
Synthetic data	Synthetic (i.e. fictional, artificially created by the authors) data **must always be specified**, including the reasons for its creation and its use in the work. Such data must never be presented as real data, but **it may be justified,** for example, if the focus of the work is the acquisition or development of a particular methodology. It **must never be used** for actual inference within the context of the research question being addressed (e.g. if we are unable to collect a sufficient amount of experimental data for a sufficiently robust test, and so we would have it 'generated'.
Computer code	Generating all or part of the code. In conjunction with data analysis, **it is possible**, for example, to ask Microsoft 365 Copilot to generate code to calculate the correlation between two columns of data stored in Microsoft Excel format. It can also be used to create a research environment (e.g. how to conduct a structured interview in practice under given circumstances), provided that the reproducibility of the procedure is ensured.