

Why you should think twice before using AI for your dissertation.

When considering the use of AI tools for your dissertation or parts of it, exercise caution, especially if your work contains unpublished and/or sensitive research data.

It is crucial to be aware of **where your data is being sent** and **how it is used**. If your dissertation includes unpublished data, carefully evaluate which AI tools are appropriate for use and which parts of your dissertation you can safely copy into an AI tool.

- » Make sure that your dissertation and your data are not accidentally made accessible before you publish them. Be certain that confidential content is not processed, stored, or used for unintended purposes.
- » Be cautious with cloud-based AI systems (e.g., ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini), as they may use your input for training purposes after processing.
- » Prefer AI systems installed on your own device that process data locally without relying on cloud computing. This ensures that your data remains secure and within your control.
- » Use AI systems provided by trusted institutions, such as the **GWDG's ChatAI**, which offers **locally hosted AI models** [<https://chat-ai.academiccloud.de>]. These systems are designed with data security in mind and no information will be transmitted outside of the GWDG.
 - You can log in to chat.ai using the *Academic Cloud* or via SSO and choose between different **internal hosted generative AI models** (Large Language Models, LLMs).
 - All prompts and answers are only handled and saved locally on your device during a session. Once you close the website, all data is deleted.
 - **Important Note:** This applies specifically to *internal* hosted LLMs only (e.g., Mistral, Qwen, and Meta).

When using *external models* (e.g., ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, ...), while personal information is not transferred, all requests are passed along unfiltered. Any personal information and data included in the prompts will be transmitted to the external service provider (external LLM models are labelled as such).

- For more details, refer to the privacy notice for ChatAI [<https://datenschutz.gwdg.de/services/chatai?lang=en>].

If you decide to use AI tools, make sure to choose a secure and trusted AI system to protect your dissertation and data from unintended exposure or misuse.