



Responsible use of AI Tools for Master thesis at the Department of Biological Sciences (BIO), UiB

Advanced AI tools for generation of text are here to stay and used responsibly they can be of big help in many situations, such as generating ideas, making structure, organizing data, helping with coding, etc. The content of the master thesis must be initially written by you. The tools should only be used as an aid and should be done in an ethical manner and in accordance with research ethics guidelines. Confidential information and personal data must not be shared with AI tools.

Guidance for all master students at BIO

BIO expects that the intellectual substance of the thesis, including research questions, summaries of existing literature, argumentation, code and analysis, graphics/illustrations, and conclusion, to be your own work. You are fully responsible for everything included in the thesis. Therefore, the use of AI must be transparent and documented. Your master thesis should clearly demonstrate your academic competence and understanding, not that of an AI-system.

To ensure compliance, all students handing in a master thesis at BIO must include a '*Statement on the use of AI tools*' as a part of thesis to be evaluated. The statement must be specific to your use of AI tools and be included as a separate page as Appendix 1 of your thesis.

Your statement should include, but not be limited to:

1. Transparency:

Declare how (purpose of the tool) and which AI tools were used in the thesis work, summarized in the Appendix, and if convenient also at appropriate points in the general text. If you did not use any AI tools when working with your thesis, this must be stated clearly.

2. The declaration should end with one of the following statements:

"I am responsible for all content of this master's thesis, including parts where AI tools are used, and for ensuring that the thesis complies with ethical rules for privacy and publication."

Or:

“I am responsible for all content of this master’s thesis and for ensuring that the thesis complies with ethical rules for privacy and publication. No AI tools were used for generating the thesis.”

Further, you are additionally expected and encouraged to:

- a. Know your own work: Be prepared to explain every part of your thesis in your own words during the oral defense. Failure to do so will result in severe consequences for your final grade.
- b. Check your sources: Do not rely on AI for literature summaries; read and engage with original texts.
- c. Verify everything: Double-check all factual content, citations, and data that may have been AI-assisted.
- d. You are the author: You may use AI for grammar polishing, not for substantive drafting of arguments or for creating graphics/illustrations.
- e. Prepare to defend orally: Expect examiners to probe your understanding of the text. You can train for this in discussions with your supervisor and fellow students. The censor will be instructed to ask questions during the oral exam to uncover lack of understanding of your own text, and to take this into account when grading.
- f. Consult your supervisor: If you are in doubt, consult your supervisor.

Approved by all Program boards at BIO

Bergen, 16.02.2026