

Guidelines for the use of generative AI at KIT

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Preamble

The use of generative artificial intelligence¹ is fundamentally changing the way we conduct research, work, learning and teaching. KIT utilizes the many opportunities that this transformation holds in a future-oriented manner and for the benefit of society.

KIT encourages its members and affiliates as well as its management bodies to make broad use of the potential of generative AI in order to shape the core tasks of research, teaching and transfer, as well as in administration and infrastructure in an innovative and sustainable way and to assume social responsibility. To this end, KIT creates optimal conditions.

Generative AI can provide valuable support in many use cases. However, the creative and substantive work and critical judgment by humans remain indispensable for developing innovative solutions, solving complex problems and making independent, well-founded assessments. Users are responsible for how they use the output of generative AI.

As a practice-oriented decision-making aid, these guidelines create a framework for the responsible and transparent use of generative AI at KIT. Following these guidelines creates an environment that supports innovation and creativity.

These guidelines do not affect the regulations made by third parties (e.g. DFG, publishers, scientific societies) or the regulations included in applicable national and international laws (e.g. the AI Act of the European Union). Existing internal regulations, insofar as they relate to the use of generative AI, remain unaffected and take precedence over these guidelines (e.g. statutes for safeguarding good scientific practice, information and communication technology regulations). When using generative AI, the Helmholtz Association's "[recommendations for the use of artificial intelligence](#)" should be taken in consideration. They highlight the opportunities and potential risks and offer practical assistance in the use and development of AI systems. In addition, KIT faculties may make further regulations for their students, doctoral candidates and teaching staff.

The guidelines are public and will be updated regularly.

¹ Generative artificial intelligence as understood within these guidelines are artificial intelligence systems that create new content (output) from information and data entered by users (input). The output can consist of text, images, audio or synthetic data. These systems can serve a variety of purposes both for direct use and for integration into digital processes (including other AI systems). Further information <https://www.plattform-lernende-systeme.de/pls.html>

Guidelines

1. We, the individual members and affiliates as well as the members of the management bodies of KIT, shall responsibly explore the potential of generative AI in studies, in the core tasks of research, teaching and transfer as well as in administration and infrastructure. Where possible, we shall use applications that shall limit our liability via contractual means.

We shall only use generative AI for internal or external purposes under the following conditions:

- a) As users and authors, we are responsible for how we use the output of generative AI. Therefore, we also apply the rules of good scientific practice when using generative AI, and take the usual care for non-scientific tasks. We comply with the applicable terms of use of the AI systems used.
- b) We comply with the principles of personal rights, data protection, confidentiality and the protection of third-party intellectual property (such as copyright and other intellectual property rights). Furthermore, we do not use the input or output of the generative AI for abusive, offensive, discriminatory or otherwise harmful or illegal purposes. The input of personal data from oneself or from third parties is only permitted in closed systems or systems that meet the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and for which a corresponding order processing contract has been concluded in accordance with Art. 28 GDPR.
- c) We exercise particular care when we use generative AI for support in a high-risk context in accordance with the AI Act² or do not use AI or only use it selectively for harmless subtasks.

d) Wherever appropriate and necessary, we document the use of generative AI transparently.

2. We use generative AI while being aware of its limitations and impact on users, and by taking into consideration the following aspects:

- a) Depending on the use case, specialized software may deliver better results than generative AI applications.
- b) Generative AI may reproduce and reinforce social stereotypes, distortions and discrimination in its results (so-called bias).
- c) Generative AI can convincingly present false factual claims as truths in its output (so-called hallucinations).
- d) For users, the use of generative AI entails the risk of losing skills and abilities such as critical thinking and creativity (so-called deskilling) and is also associated with the acquisition of new qualifications.
- e) Depending on the settings and the business model of the respective application, user queries may be stored, evaluated and used for further training of the AI.
- f) Generative AI is very energy-intensive, both when training the models and for each individual request (prompt).

² In Annex III, the AI Act mentions in particular for "education and vocational training" (paragraph 3):

- a) [...] to determine access or admission [...]
- b) [...] to evaluate learning outcomes, including when those outcomes are used to steer the learning process of natural persons [...]
- c) [...] for the purpose of assessing the appropriate level of education that an individual will receive or will be able to access
- d) [...] for monitoring and detecting prohibited behaviour of students during tests [...]

3. Due to the complex considerations that the legal and, in particular, the ethically justifiable use of generative AI requires in individual cases, KIT has a responsibility to provide its members and affiliates as well as its bodies with appropriate training and advanced education opportunities. KIT therefore ensures that all students, researchers and employees will have the following with regard to generative AI:

- a) have access to modern and suitable tools;
- b) find best-practice examples and further information on the intranet;
- c) are able to take advantage of a needs-oriented range of qualification and advanced training courses on dealing with generative AI (according to Art. 4 AI Act) as well as its opportunities and risks;

d) benefit from interdisciplinary exchange and net-working formats;

e) participate in discussions on aspects of ethics and sustainability.

These guidelines will be updated at regular intervals, as the underlying technologies and the legal framework, and therefore also the opportunities and risks, are developing rapidly.