

GenAI Research Statement and Disclosure Guidelines for Theses

McGill | Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

May 1, 2026 version

The increased prevalence of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) usage in research has prompted several Canadian universities to provide guidelines for the inclusion of GenAI research statements in master's and doctoral theses. To better align with current practices and recognize that the transparent disclosure of generative AI is becoming standard in research contexts (publications, grant agencies, among others), Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (GPS) is providing disclosure guidelines for McGill students in thesis programs.

As of May 1st, 2026, we ask students to consult these guidelines and, in consultation with their supervisor (and where appropriate, their department), include the GenAI statement proposed below as well as a specific disclosure framework. Students can select a disclosure framework that is appropriate to their discipline and the requirements of their department (if any).

> Please note: these guidelines are under review at the institutional level. Revised updates to the guidelines will be posted on the Thesis Website.

Prior to conducting research and writing the thesis



Students should consult their supervisor, department, and Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies' guidelines on the use of generative artificial intelligence to verify if, how and when GenAI can be used in research and thesis writing. This should be done prior to conducting research and writing the thesis.

In cases where external publication guidelines and McGill guidelines differ, please defer to the university's guidelines for your thesis.

Prior to thesis submission: Generative AI statement

Students who use GenAI in the production of their thesis may include the following text prior to the main body of the thesis.

> *I hereby confirm that I have consulted the guidelines on the use of generative artificial intelligence issued by McGill's Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (GPS) and have familiarized myself with my responsibilities as a student regarding the use of generative AI in research. I have consulted with my supervisor and, where appropriate, my department to ensure that any use of generative AI in this thesis complies with both university policies and the norms of my discipline. I attest that all use of generative AI in this thesis adheres to these guidelines. Where necessary, I reference the use of generative AI in my thesis. I understand that any misuse of generative AI may result in disciplinary action under the Code of Student Conduct.*

Students who have not used GenAI may include the following text prior to the main body of the thesis:

> *I hereby confirm that I have consulted the guidelines on the use of generative artificial intelligence issued by McGill's Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (GPS) and have familiarized myself with my responsibilities as a student regarding the use of generative AI in research.* ***I attest that I have not used generative AI in the production of this thesis****. I understand that any misuse of generative AI may result in disciplinary action under the Code of Student Conduct.*



Disclosure framework

In collaboration with their supervisor, students can also include any one of the following disclosure frameworks to detail how GenAI was used in the research and during thesis writing.

Departments may also propose disclosure frameworks more suitable to their discipline.



Text-based declaration

1. ***Tools Used***
   [State the name(s) of generative AI tool(s).]

2. ***Purpose of Use***
   [Briefly describe how the tool(s) were used (e.g., language editing, coding assistance, brainstorming) referring to the list in the guidelines above. Any use outside of the GPS guidelines should be discussed with the supervisor and included here regardless.]

3. ***Extent of Use***
   [Indicate the scope of use (e.g., minor editing, limited assistance in coding, substantial support in early-stage idea generation).]

4. ***Human Oversight and Verification***
   [Explain how outputs were reviewed, validated, and revised. Confirm responsibility for accuracy.]

5. ***Impact on the Research***
   [State whether the use of generative AI had any material impact on the research design, analysis, or conclusions. If yes, briefly explain and cross-reference relevant sections (e.g., methodology).]

Checklist-based declaration

- ☐ No generative AI tools were used
- ☐ Generative AI used for language editing, proof reading, and/or assistance with the reference list only
- ☐ Generative AI used for coding/technical assistance
- ☐ Generative AI used for identifying research articles
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

Checklist-based declaration with extent

- ☐ Generative AI used for language editing, proof reading, and/or assistance with the reference list only
  - ☐ Minimal ☐ Moderate ☐ High
- ☐ Generative AI used for coding/technical assistance
  - ☐ Minimal ☐ Moderate ☐ High
- ☐ Generative AI used for identifying research articles
  - ☐ Minimal ☐ Moderate ☐ High
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

Questions about citing AI?

Please consult the McGill Libraries' website:
https://libraryguides.mcgill.ca/ai/citation

FAQs

1. **This document says this starts May 1, 2026. Must I include a GenAI statement in my thesis?**

   The use of a generative AI statement and disclosure framework is recommended, but not yet mandatory. The use of generative AI in thesis research and writing must comply with the guidelines set out here, as well as any department-, supervisor-, and discipline-specific requirements. The statement and disclosure framework are intended to make transparent the steps taken to understand and comply with these guidelines.

   Failure to disclose the use of generative AI tools in a submitted thesis may compromise and/or delay assessment of the thesis, as examiners have been actively identifying and flagging potential generative AI use.

   The generative AI statement and proposed disclosure frameworks are currently under review at the university level. Following consultations with committees and departments in Fall 2026, the statement and disclosure frameworks may become mandatory, in line with practices at peer institutions and journals.

2. **Can I modify the GenAI statement?**
   Please do not modify the main statement. You may communicate concerns or suggestions for revised wording to your department, who can recommend modifications to GPS.

   The framework of disclosure for AI use, however, is flexible.

3. **Are there ways to track my use of GenAI?**
   The University of Laval has produced a logbook template to keep track of your GenAI use, available here: https://www.fesp.ulaval.ca/en/masters-and-doctoral-theses/responsible-use-of-generative-ai-in-masters-and-doctoral-theses.