

Guidelines for optimal and ethical use of ChatGPT in theses writing

1. Use for Concept Exploration and Topic Refinement

- **Appropriate:** ChatGPT is ideal for brainstorming, refining research questions, and exploring key concepts within a subject. It can generate ideas, suggest frameworks, and introduce relevant theories, helping students clarify their research focus.
- **Limitation:** Treat suggestions as preliminary ideas rather than established facts. Always corroborate with academic sources, as ChatGPT lacks specialized access to current research databases and may not provide the latest research insights.

2. Understanding Complex Topics

- **Appropriate:** ChatGPT can clarify challenging topics, providing definitions, summarizing theories, or explaining key ideas. Use it to understand methodologies, statistical terms, and complex theories.
- **Limitation:** For deep insights, turn to peer-reviewed papers, textbooks, and faculty guidance to ensure accuracy and completeness, as ChatGPT may simplify or omit important details.

3. Initial Literature Review Support

- **Appropriate:** ChatGPT can help locate foundational theories, methods, and research trends by summarizing general knowledge on a topic.
- **Limitation:** ChatGPT does not access real-time research databases. Use it for overview and keyword generation, but rely on library databases (e.g., JSTOR, PubMed) for current literature. Cite directly from academic sources, not ChatGPT.

4. Generating Outlines and Structuring Ideas

- **Appropriate:** ChatGPT can help structure chapters, suggest sections, and organize content flow, assisting with the logical layout of arguments or findings.
- **Limitation:** Ensure that structure aligns with your field's standards. Verify outline sections with faculty or established thesis structures, as ChatGPT's suggestions may lack field-specific rigor.

5. Writing Assistance and Language Refinement

- **Appropriate:** ChatGPT is useful for improving readability, refining language, and suggesting alternative phrasing.
- **Limitation:** Avoid full-scale editing or automated rewriting, as it could interfere with the authenticity of your academic voice. Always revise and personalize any suggested language improvements.

6. Ethical and Proper Attribution

- **Appropriate:** If you generate content or specific insights through ChatGPT, acknowledge this assistance in your methodology or acknowledgments, depending on university guidelines.

- **Limitation:** Do not consider ChatGPT an original source. Do not cite it as an academic reference, and avoid over-reliance on AI-generated text to maintain academic integrity.

In summary, ChatGPT is a complementary tool for writing a thesis, ideal for brainstorming, language support and structure. However, students should verify all information through academic sources and follow the relevant regulations of Kautz Gyula Faculty of Business and Economics of Széchenyi István University to write their thesis and dissertation.