

**Amendment of the regulations governing the principles
for safeguarding good academic practice (unofficial reading version)
at the University of Oldenburg**

of 11/12/2023

On 6 December 2023, the Senate of the University of Oldenburg decided on the following amendment of the Guidelines for Good Academic Practice and the procedure for suspected academic misconduct from 05/10/2022 (AM 064/2022) pursuant to Section 41.1.1 of the Lower Saxony Higher Education Act (NHG) The Regulations dated 5 October 2022 and all amendments can be found in the Official Notices.

Part I

1. Section 4 (Principles for preparing academic theses and dissertations (variations are underlined):

“(1) Justification, autonomy, reflectiveness and originality are the most important quality criteria of all academic work. Depending on the nature and level of the academic or scientific qualification sought, these criteria will be subject to gradually increasing requirements. All academic theses and dissertations must be thoroughly and carefully researched, and include citations and references. The use of someone else’s work, regardless of whether this concerns a section of ~~text~~ content or ideas and theories (from other natural persons or generated by generative AI), must be immediately recognisable to the ~~reader~~ recipients. If the thesis or dissertation makes use of someone else’s intellectual property or work or via generative AI-generated content, the ~~reader~~-recipient must always be made aware. All theses and dissertations must include a sworn statement affirming that the work was carried out independently and without impermissible assistance from a third party and not with the unmarked use of generative AI”

2. Section 9 Preservation of primary data and documentation requirements introduces a new paragraph 7:

“(7) Authors must indicate(e.g. in the method section, the acknowledgment or the accompanying documentation of a software or code) if and in which parts of a manuscript or other parts of a publication they have used generative artificial intelligence (AI; e.g. Large Language Models (LLM), chatbots, or Image Creators) in its creation. In such materials, the authors must ensure plausibility and correctness and exclude plagiarism. The authors always bear the ultimate responsibility for AI-generated content.”

3. Section 11 (3) (Infringement of academic quality standards, academic misconduct) is clarified in point 2 letter a (underlined) and a new point 6; the subsequent points are numbered up accordingly

(3) The following acts in particular are regarded as academic misconduct:

[...]

2. Violations of intellectual property with respect to third-party copyrighted material (including drawings, pictorial representations etc.) or major scientific insights, hypotheses, teachings, or research approaches derived from any of the following:

a) unauthorized use of texts or ideas of other persons following a claim of authorship (plagiarism),

6. the use of generative AI not identified in accordance with § 9 when creating own works”

Part II

These amendments will take effect after approval by the Senate on the date following their publication in the official notices of the University of Oldenburg.

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