



पूर्वोत्तर इंदिरा गांधी क्षेत्रीय स्वास्थ्य एवं आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, शिलांग

NORTH EASTERN INDIRA GANDHI REGIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH & MEDICAL SCIENCES, SHILLONG

(भारत सरकार, स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय, स्वायत्त संस्थान)

(An Autonomous Institute, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India)

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Institutional Guidelines for the Ethical Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Scientific Research, Theses, Dissertations, and Publications implemented at NEIGRIHMS, from 15th May 2026

These guidelines are formulated to promote the responsible, transparent, ethical, and accountable use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in scientific and academic research conducted under the Institute, including theses, dissertations, research papers, conference abstracts, presentations, and other scholarly publications. The policy is aligned with the ethical and academic principles outlined by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), University Grants Commission (UGC), National Law University Delhi (NLU Delhi) and Indian Institute of Science (Bengaluru) AI-generated content policy.

For the purpose of these guidelines, **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** refers to software systems capable of generating, analyzing, summarizing, translating, interpreting, or transforming text, data, images, code, or audiovisual content using computational algorithms. **Generative AI** refers specifically to AI systems capable of creating new content such as text, figures, tables, code, or data visualizations based on trained computational models and datasets. **AI Assistance** refers to the supportive or ancillary use of AI tools during activities such as drafting, editing, formatting, literature organization, coding, translation, statistical assistance, or data analysis, while ensuring that the core intellectual contribution, interpretation, scientific reasoning, and conclusions remain substantially human-generated and under the full responsibility of the researcher.

Scope: Theses, Dissertations, Research articles, Conference papers, Project report, Scientific manuscripts.

The objective of these guidelines is to:

- Preserve academic integrity.
- Ensure transparency and accountability in AI-assisted research.
- Prevent plagiarism, fabrication, and unethical authorship practices.
- Regulate responsible use of AI in thesis, dissertation, and research publications.



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Permissible Uses of AI:

AI tools may be used only as supportive aids and not as substitutes for human scholarly work. Permissible uses include:

- Language and grammar improvement.
- Formatting and reference organization.
- Literature classification and summarization with verification.
- Translation support with human validation.
- Generation of outlines, keywords, abstracts, and visual templates with proper disclosure.
- Assistance in data organization and non-interpretative analysis.

All AI-assisted outputs must be critically reviewed, validated, and approved by the researcher before submission.

Non-Permissible Uses of AI:

- Using AI to generate entire theses, dissertations, manuscripts, or research proposals without substantial human intellectual contribution.
- Fabrication or manipulation of research data, images, citations, statistical analyses, or results.
- Creation of false references, "hallucinated" citations, or misleading scientific claims.
- Submission of AI-generated work as original scholarly work.
- Listing AI tools as authors or co-authors.
- Uploading confidential, unpublished, patient-related, institutional, or sensitive research data to public AI platforms without authorization.
- Using AI to paraphrase or disguise plagiarism or self-plagiarism.
- Manipulation of research images or figures in ways that misrepresent scientific findings.



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Violation of these provisions shall constitute academic misconduct and may attract disciplinary action under institutional and UGC regulations.

Disclosure and Transparency:

Any use of AI tools in research or manuscript preparation must be transparently disclosed.

The disclosure should include:

- Name and version of the AI tool,
- Purpose of use,
- Extent of AI assistance,
- Confirmation that all interpretations, conclusions, and scientific judgments are human-derived.

Data Privacy, Confidentiality, and Ethics:

Special caution must be exercised for:

- Any identifiable patient data,
- Clinical images,
- Unpublished datasets,
- Institutional documents,
- Ethically protected information.

AI use in biomedical and healthcare research must adhere to ethical principles of autonomy, accountability, safety, fairness, transparency, non-discrimination, and data privacy as emphasized in ICMR ethical guidance.



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Plagiarism and Academic Integrity with regard to AI Usage:

- AI-generated content shall be subject to plagiarism screening similar to conventional submissions.
- Researchers must ensure proper attribution of all sources.
- AI-assisted paraphrasing shall not be used to conceal plagiarism.
- The prescribed policy and recommendations of the Institute for AI-assisted content to ensure that scholarly work remains predominantly based on original human intellectual contribution, independent analysis, and critical reasoning has to be followed.

Responsibilities of Supervisors and the Institution:

The Institute shall:

- Conduct awareness programs on ethical AI use.
- Promote training in responsible scientific writing and publication ethics.
- Develop institutional review mechanisms for AI-related misconduct.
- Periodically revise AI guidelines in response to evolving technologies.

Supervisors and mentors shall:

- Guide students regarding ethical AI use.
- Verify originality of submissions.
- Ensure compliance with research integrity standards.

Recommended References:

1. University Grants Commission. *UGC (Promotion of Academic Integrity and Prevention of Plagiarism in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2018.*
2. Indian Council of Medical Research. *Ethical Guidelines for Application of Artificial Intelligence in Biomedical Research and Healthcare, 2023.*



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3. Department of Health Research. *DHR Policy on Publications*, March 2024 — including provisions on AI-generated content, publication ethics, disclosure obligations, and researcher accountability.
4. National Law University Delhi. *Policy on AI-Generated Content and Academic Integrity*.
5. Indian Institute of Science. *Emerging AI Tools for Education and Research: Perspective and Policies for IISc, 2024*.

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