

Use of generative AI to support a research project		
Task	Could this be acceptable use?	Under what conditions?
Ask generative AI to identify or summarize key points in an article before you read it. Use this as a starting point for your literature review.	Yes	Acceptable without explicit citation
Ask AI to summarize a book or article in your field. Reproduce that summary in your literature review without reading the book or article	No	Never acceptable, as there has been no engagement with the book or source itself.
Use an AI chatbot as a writing tool to help generate and develop ideas.	Yes	Acceptable, may require explicit citation depending on circumstances. Strongly encouraged to keep a log of your prompts as part of your research notebook.
Use generative AI to initially write the research plan, abstract, paper or poster.	No	Never acceptable. This must be independent work of the student. Guidance or refinement after the initial document has been completed can be done with explicit citation and a log.
Use AI to write initial code for your project	Yes	Acceptable, only with explicit citation stating which portions of the code were AI generated and with a log of the prompts.
You write an abstract. Ask AI to sharpen the language but not modify, add to, or replace the main points	Yes	Acceptable use without explicit citation only if changes suggested by AI are limited to grammar and syntax.
Ask generative AI to produce a flowchart, graphic, or image for a paper or presentation	Yes	Image should be clearly marked as AI-generated and with explicit citation as to how the image was created.
Write your research paper. Ask AI to add additional points to your research paper.	No	Never acceptable
Use AI to produce your conclusions, future steps, etc.	No	Never acceptable
Use AI to help identify appropriate statistical tests or software tools. (Interpretation of data must be done by the student researcher)	Yes	Acceptable, requires a log of your prompts as part of your research notebook.
Ask generative AI to produce a starter bibliography	No	Never acceptable
Use AI to collect data and write a research plan. Use AI to provide citations that back up your claims	No	Never acceptable
Ask generative AI to fix the structure or formatting of your bibliography	Yes	Acceptable without explicit citation. You must review and verify all citations as valid

Table from “ISEF International Rules Companion Guide, 2026-2027”, layout modified by SEFMD