

# DIABETES UK – USE OF GENERATIVE AI IN RESEARCH FUNDING APPLICATIONS & ASSESSMENT

This policy sets out Diabetes UK’s expectations for applicants who choose to use generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools when preparing research funding applications. As a member of the Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC), we uphold the [Research Funders Policy Group Joint Statement](#) on the use of generative AI tools in funding applications and assessment.

This policy aims to balance the potential benefits of generative AI with the need to preserve research integrity, confidentiality, and fairness. Applicants and their institutes remain fully responsible for their submissions and must use AI tools transparently and ethically. Reviewers must not use AI on confidential materials under any circumstances.

## Purpose

This policy outlines Diabetes UK’s expectations for applicants using generative AI tools when preparing research funding applications.

## What is generative AI

Generative AI creates new content like text, images, audio, or code. Tools such as ChatGPT, Google Gemini, and Microsoft 365 Copilot use Large Language Models to process natural language and generate responses.

## What we expect from applicants and organisations who apply to us for funding

Applicants and their host organisations are responsible and accountable for the content of their funding applications to Diabetes UK. Applicants may use generative AI tools to support certain aspects of application development, such as drafting, editing, improving clarity, or translation. **Applicants should:**

- **Remain fully accountable** for the originality, accuracy, and integrity of all content submitted.
- **Do not rely on AI outputs without verification**; all generated material must be checked for accuracy and must not include fabricated, misleading, plagiarised, or biased content.
- **Use AI as a supportive tool**, not as a substitute for applicant expertise and intellectual contribution.

- **Consider the risk of bias** and ensure the outputs from generative AI tools used in applications are valid. This includes removing any false, misleading or hallucinated information.
- **Describe how AI was used**, in line with good research integrity practice across UK funders.
- **Organisations** that administer grants for Diabetes UK must provide guidance to their staff on how to use AI responsibly.

This information is collected for transparency and monitoring only and does not influence funding decisions.

## What we expect from expert reviewers

Our expert assessors, including peer reviewers, committee and panel members are selected for their expertise and experience in their field, and we value their unique and expert perspectives.

To maintain confidentiality and the integrity of the review process:

- **Reviewers must not use generative AI** to review, summarise, or analyse confidential applications or peer review documents.
- **Confidential** funding materials must never be entered into AI tools.

Doing so breaches the confidentiality agreement that assessors agree.

## Diabetes UK's use of generative AI in funding applications and assessment

Diabetes UK:

- Whilst Diabetes UK may use AI tools to support our processes, we do not use it when deciding whether to award funding.
- May use secure internal AI tools for administrative or operational purposes that do not involve handling confidential application content, in line with sector best practice. This process may involve identifying expert reviewers; however, subsequent evaluation of these reviewers is conducted manually to ensure their suitability, relevant expertise, established track record, and to identify any potential conflicts of interest.
- Diabetes UK staff may use generative AI tools to assist in the administration of grant applications, in creating content to promote funded grants, and when writing proposals for fundraising. Wherever generative AI tools are used, human oversight is always present to review and validate content to ensure accuracy.