

TERRY FOX RESEARCH INSTITUTE

POLICY REGARDING THE USE OF AI TOOLS IN GRANT APPLICATIONS AND REVIEWS

This is an interim policy which TFRI expects to modify over time as the field of machine learning and development and capabilities of AI tools is evolving quickly. The policy is based on the government of Canada policy that covers the Tri-Council's and CFI on use of generative AI but has additional considerations and limits.

<https://science.gc.ca/site/science/en/interagency-research-funding/policies-and-guidelines/use-generative-artificial-intelligence-development-and-review-research-proposals>

1. Use of AI Tools in Grant Applications

A declaration regarding the use of AI assistance will be included in application templates and be visible to reviewers.

Any use of AI must be disclosed (type and version of the tool) and the purpose indicated (generation of abstract, etc). The applicant takes full responsibility for errors introduced by the tool. For example, a known problem is in the synthesis of references that are not real. A reviewer may penalize an applicant should such errors persist in the submitted application. Given that all reviewers share their reviews with other reviewers on the panel, this is quite likely to yield an unfundable score.

Any text generated with AI tools should be indicated (for instance using italics or a different font). TFRI reserves the right to use AI detection tools when previewing an application if it suspects inappropriate or undisclosed AI use. However, current tools are known to be problematic and so will not be the only arbiter of AI use assessment.

TFRI recognizes that most applications have input from multiple people. All contributors should be made aware of this policy.

Should a reviewer indicate that their enthusiasm for a particular application was significantly reduced by the suspected (i.e. not disclosed by the applicant) use of AI, they will be asked to provide specific evidence in their review.

2. Use of AI Tools in Grant Reviews

The use of AI tools in the preparation of reviews for TFRI administered grants is currently strictly forbidden. TFRI prides itself in recruiting expert reviewers for adjudication of its applications. This recruitment is international and based on the scientific excellence and pertinence of the reviewer's expertise to evaluate the applications being considered for funding. Furthermore, use of some tools could lead to breach of confidentiality. A declaration by reviewers that AI tools have not been used is also required.