



Using AI to apply for a grant

At Quartet, we acknowledge that AI* can be a useful tool. We sometimes use AI to improve effectiveness and efficiency, or where we feel it augments human enablement. We also understand that many of the organisations we work with are using AI for a variety of tasks, including in the process of applying for grants. We wanted to offer guidance on how to use AI in a way that still sets you up for success and to draw attention to some key considerations when using AI tools when applying to our grants programmes.

We value how AI can increase efficiency, assist applicants who are disabled or who face additional barriers to written applications, among its other helpful uses.

However, sometimes AI can be over-relied upon and where we see this, applications can be generic, hard to understand, or not in line with grant guidelines. What is important to us as a place-based funder is evidence of local impact, need, and context. We are not expecting perfect language, grammar or structure so long as the text is understandable. Instead, we want to hear your voice and the voice of those you work with.

Any AI generated text should be edited accordingly to ensure you understand it, and that it is a relevant and good reflection of what you are looking to achieve.

As with any software, the use of generative AI is your responsibility. We still expect you to declare that the content of any application or end of grant report is owned by you, accurate, and consent has been gathered by relevant parties if personal data has been used.

Key considerations when using AI

1. The environmental impact of AI

AI has a significant environmental impact. The large volume of water required to cool data centres, and the electricity needed to run AI systems is something an applicant should consider when deciding whether AI is required for a task or if there are alternative methods available.

2. Reinforcing human bias

Visual content, like photos and videos, can bring an application to life and demonstrate the benefit of a project. At Quartet this is something we value and where possible applicants and grant recipients should seek to use photos and videos that they have taken themselves and gathered relevant consent for.

There are various ethical, safeguarding and copyright concerns when it comes to using AI to generate imagery, videos, and other visual content to represent groups of people or a particular cause. We strongly advise against the use of AI to generate visual content that represents children and/or vulnerable adults due to these concerns. Where an applicant decides to use AI in generating visual content, they should ensure it is not reinforcing harmful human biases, doesn't put others at risk, and is not infringing upon copyright.

3. Accuracy of information

A grant application is your chance to showcase your expertise and local knowledge. AI can produce data that can hinder your application if it is incorrect or overly generic. We therefore strongly advise that an applicant checks the sources of AI generated data to ensure its credibility.

4. Data protection

Many AI tools are free to use and will store the data you input to further train their machine. Therefore, where you are using free tools, we strongly advise not to input confidential or sensitive data. Where you are using paid for or bespoke software, it is your responsibility to have an appropriate data sharing and retention agreement in place that is compliant with current UK data protection law.

This statement will be reviewed regularly as the guidance and use of AI develops.