

A Position Statement - RSSA on the use of AI

September 2025

The RSSA discourages the use of generative AI in the writing of proposals, manuscripts, grant applications and other scientific works. This position is based on the following considerations:

- the environmental consequences of the high electricity demand and cooling water consumption of large data storage and processing infrastructure,
- the risk of legal and ethical challenges from inadequate or absent attribution,
- the risk of compromising your copyright,
- the risk of exposing your work to use by other parties,
- the risk of losing control over how your content might be used by others, and
- the risk of factual errors being perpetuated.

The ability to construct a cogent and compelling research argument is a vital skillset for grant preparation, report writing, publications and for understanding the complexities of your discipline in a way that AI cannot. The RSSA encourage researchers to develop and exercise these cognitive skills and to use their own words as often and as vigorously as possible.

Proprietary editorial tools such as grammar and spell checkers and machine translators are useful for suggestions but should be used with caution and always checked for errors they may generate or perpetuate.

Applicants to RSSA grant schemes are to exercise caution when using generative AI tools in the preparation of applications as it may compromise authorship, intellectual property and copyright claims. All content in the grant application should be created by the applicant, and any use of AI in preparation of the application must be clearly identified and acknowledged.