

Policy on Prohibiting Artificial Intelligence Tools in Peer Review

Purpose

The Foundation for Food & Agriculture Research (“FFAR”) maintains a strong commitment to upholding the integrity of the peer review process and the proprietary nature of competitive grant proposals. Peer review depends on the independent judgment, expertise and discretion of human reviewers. This Policy on Prohibiting Artificial Intelligence Tools in Peer Review (“AI Policy”) aims to maintain the confidentiality of proprietary grant proposals and safeguard the integrity of the peer review process by explicitly prohibiting peer reviewers from using natural language processors, large language models or other generative Artificial Intelligence (“AI”) technologies (collectively, “AI Tools”) for reviewing, analyzing or formulating peer review feedback of grant applications and research proposals (collectively “Grant Applications”).

Scope

This AI Policy applies to all FFAR Advisory Council and Peer Review Panel members (“Reviewers”) involved in peer review activities across all stages of the process, including but not limited to reviewing, evaluating, scoring, providing written comments, participating in discussions or deliberations, ranking proposals and making funding recommendations.

AI Policy Statement

All peer review activities must be conducted exclusively by human reviewers using their own independent expertise, judgment and discretion. The use of AI Tools is strictly prohibited in any aspect of the peer review process for Grant Applications. Specifically, Reviewers may not:

1. upload, share or input any portion of a proposal or related confidential materials into an AI Tool or platform;
2. use AI Tools to generate, draft or refine review comments or critiques;
3. rely on AI-generated analyses or summaries to inform scoring, ranking or funding recommendations; or

4. use AI Tools in any other way as a part of the FFAR peer review process.

Enforcement & Compliance

All Reviewers are required to certify that they have read, understood and agreed to comply with this AI Policy before participating in peer review activities. FFAR may take necessary steps in response to a violation of this AI Policy to preserve the integrity of the review process. This includes, without limitation, terminating a Reviewer's relationship with FFAR, requiring the return of any prepaid honorarium and/or commencing legal action damages and/or injunctive relief.

Reviewer Certification

I certify that I have read and understand FFAR’s Policy on Prohibiting Artificial Intelligence Tools in Peer Review (“AI Policy”) and agree to fully comply with its requirements.

I acknowledge that, as a Reviewer, I will be entrusted with access to confidential and proprietary information related to grant applications and R&D contract proposals. I agree to safeguard this information and to conduct all aspects of the peer review process personally and without the use of AI tools.

I understand that the use of AI tools in any capacity is strictly prohibited and shall constitute a breach of confidentiality and a violation of FFAR’s Reviewer Non-Disclosure Policy.

I further understand that all Reviewers are required to certify compliance with this AI Policy before participating in any peer review activities.

In the event of a violation, FFAR may take any necessary steps to preserve the integrity of the review process, including, without limitation, terminating my relationship with FFAR, requiring the return of any prepaid honorarium and initiating legal action seeking damages and injunctive relief.

By signing below, I affirm my commitment to uphold the confidentiality, integrity and trust placed in me as a reviewer and to abide by this AI Policy at all times.

Print name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____