



Guidelines for the Use of Generative AI Tools in Application Materials

For Applying to Advanced Study Program Postdoctoral Fellowship

As the use of generative AI (GenAI) tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Grammarly, Google Gemini) becomes more common, we want to provide guidelines on how these tools should and should not be used when preparing your application materials for opportunities at NSF NCAR's Advanced Study Program. Our goal is to support integrity, fairness, and authentic self-representation in the application process. In many cases, it is more valuable to receive an imperfect but genuine application for a program than an overly polished but impersonal application, which is often the output of GenAI tools.

✓ Acceptable Uses of GenAI Tools when applying to NSF NCAR, UCAR and UCP Student Programs

You may use GenAI tools to support the writing process in the following ways:

- Brainstorming ideas for your personal statement or essays.
- Improving grammar, spelling, or clarity of your writing.
- Getting feedback on structure or tone, similar to using a writing assistant or tutor.
- Drafting outlines or suggested content to inspire your own thinking.
- Cite your references when using GenAI tools

(<https://libguides.brown.edu/c.php?g=1338928&p=9868287>)

Note: You are expected to review and revise any GenAI-generated content to ensure it accurately reflects your voice, experiences, and intentions.

✗ Unacceptable Uses of GenAI Tools when applying to NSF NCAR, UCAR, and UCP Student Programs

You should not use GenAI tools to:

- Develop entirely GenAI-generated content with the intention of submitting it as your own without meaningful revision.
- Include misleading information which get often generated by GenAI tools (e.g., false accomplishments, skills, or experiences)
- Misrepresent your writing abilities by relying heavily on GenAI-generated content that does not reflect your own work.

Why This Matters

Using GenAI responsibly is part of developing ethical digital literacy. We want to understand who *you* are, not an GenAI model's interpretation of your background or interests. Your authentic voice helps us better understand your goals and how you might benefit from and contribute to the opportunity you are applying to.

In short, it is appropriate to use GenAI tools in a similar manner to discussing ideas with a colleague or asking someone to proofread your answers. Using GenAI tools to generate your entire response is similar to asking someone else to write your response on your behalf. This is unethical and may be interpreted as a form of plagiarism.

What to Expect

Not all NSF NCAR, UCAR, or UCP programs require applicants to disclose the use of GenAI tools, but we encourage you to be thoughtful and transparent in how you use them. If you're unsure whether your use of GenAI is appropriate, reach out to Scott Briggs for guidance.

As part of our commitment to academic and professional integrity, our team may use GenAI detection tools to evaluate application materials. Submissions that appear to be predominantly or entirely generated by GenAI may be flagged for additional review and could impact an applicant's consideration for the program.

Questions?

Please contact Scott Briggs sbriggs@ucar.edu if you have any questions or need clarification on these guidelines.

Disclaimer:

This document was created with the assistance of generative AI (GenAI).