



Australia Awards

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Australia Awards Scholarships – Information Sheet

Australia Awards Scholarships are offered by the Australian Government to develop future leaders. Honesty, integrity, and originality are essential to maintaining the high standards of the program.

This information sheet explains how AI tools may and may not be used during the application process and while on award.

What is Artificial Intelligence (AI)?

Artificial Intelligence (AI) refers to digital tools or systems capable of analysing information and generating text, images, audio, video or other content. This includes generative AI tools such as ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, or similar systems that can draft, paraphrase, improve, or rewrite written material. Artificial Intelligence (AI), including generative AI tools, is increasingly used in academic and professional contexts.

AI can assist with basic productivity, but must never replace your own thinking, writing, or authentic voice.

AI use during the application stage:

All application responses must be your own original ideas, experiences, and words.

AI may be used for limited productivity support.

Only to assist your thinking—not to generate content.)

You *may* use AI to:

- Check spelling and grammar
- Clarify confusing concepts or questions
- Brainstorm ideas at a high level
- Organise your thoughts before drafting,
- Improve your own understanding of a topic (not the application questions).

AI must NOT be used to create or modify application content

You must **not** use AI to:

- Generate answers to application questions
- Draft, rewrite, improve, or paraphrase your essays or OASIS responses
- Edit or “polish” your writing to sound more professional or concise
- Produce reintegration plans or any attached documents
- Insert AI-generated text that you then “adjust” to look like your own
- Present AI-generated material as your original work

Using AI in these ways may be considered plagiarism or fraud, which can lead to disqualification.

Protecting Your Personal Information

Do not input sensitive personal data into AI tools, such as:

- Passport or ID numbers
- Employment records
- Financial information

- Health details
- Someone else's personal information

This protects both you and others from data misuse.

Your Authentic Voice Matters

During selection, your written and verbal communication skills may be assessed in interviews and other activities.

AI-generated writing often sounds overly polished or generic. If your written responses do not align with your communication during interviews, this may raise concerns about authenticity.

Your application should reflect your personality, experiences, motivations, and goals - clearly and honestly

AI use while on award

Once on-award, you must comply with:

- Your institution's academic integrity policies
- Their rules for acceptable AI use in coursework and assessments

AI must **not** be used to:

- Create false or misleading content
- Produce deepfakes, impersonations, or deceptive material
- Facilitate harassment, exploitation, or harm (including image-based abuse)

Such behaviour may be treated as a safeguarding breach under DFAT policies.

Breaches of AI requirements can result in disciplinary action, including possible scholarship termination.

How Australia Awards protects integrity

To maintain fairness across all applicants, the Program may:

- Inform applicants clearly of acceptable and prohibited AI use
- Assess applications using multiple information sources (referee reports, history, academic records)
- Conduct interviews or writing exercises to verify skills
- Use AI detection tools for indicative checks (not sole evidence)

There is no single reliable method to detect AI use. Integrity is assessed across the whole process.

Applicant Checklist

Before submitting your application:

- ☐ My responses are entirely my own ideas and words
- ☐ I have used AI only for limited productivity tasks
- ☐ I have not inserted AI-generated content into my application
- ☐ I have not provided personal or sensitive data to AI tools
- ☐ My responses sound like me - not like a machine
- ☐ My application reflects my genuine experiences, goals, and motivations

Need Help or Not Sure?

If you're unsure whether a use of AI is permitted:

- Treat the output as not allowed.
- Ask your local Program representative for guidance.
- Contact **support@australiaawards.org** for further assistance

Authenticity and integrity are core to your success.

AI may assist with basic productivity, but it must never replace an applicant's or awardee's own thinking, writing or voice.

Australia Awards Scholarships are awarded on merit, integrity and demonstrated capability. Applicants and awardees are responsible for ensuring their use of AI aligns with these principles.