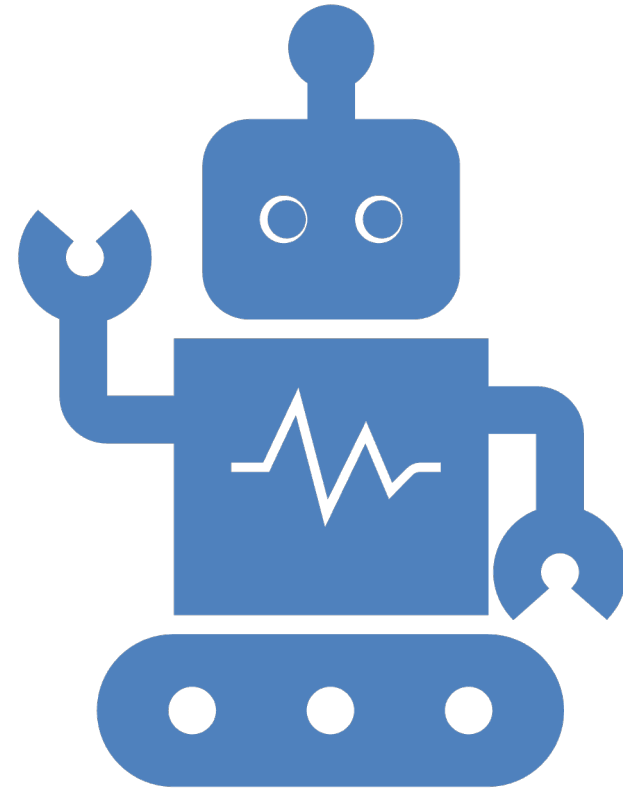


# AI-powered Grant Writing

How to boost your grant  
proposals with AI



*22 april 2025*

*Annemarie van der Zeeuw*

[www.wetenschappelijkschrijven.nl](http://www.wetenschappelijkschrijven.nl)

# Content

1. A list of Q&A's about AI in grant writing
2. Several strong prompts to use in building your grant proposal
3. Exercises to help you start writing the proposal

*Have fun & progress!*

*Any questions?*

*I will be happy to help:*

*Annemarie van der Zeeuw: [am.zeeuw@gmail.com](mailto:am.zeeuw@gmail.com)*

# Q & A

Q: How quickly can I generate a first draft with AI?

A: *Within minutes, if your input is detailed and clear. But it's still a rough draft.*

**Is this a smart move? NO.**

Q: How do I use AI in a smart way to improve my grant proposal?

A: *As a sparring partner: structure, style, rephrasing, summarizing, and feedback.*

Q: How reliable is AI when generating text?

A: *Fairly reliable if **you** provide content (outline or bullet points).*

# Q & A

Q: Can AI make my text more persuasive?

A: *Yes—by matching the funder's mission, priorities, and style.*

Q: Can AI mimic my style?

A: *Yes feed the tool with a sample text.*

Q: How to avoid sounding fake?

A: *Close-read, edit carefully, and add sentences in your voice.*

Q: Does AI understand medical research?

A: *No—it can phrase things well but lacks true understanding. You are the expert.*

Q: How to handle hallucinations?

A: *Treat output as suggestions, not truth. Verify every sentence.*

# AI & Ethics

Q: May I use AI for grant writing?

A: *Yes, but you are responsible for the content.*

Q: Do I need to disclose AI use?

A: *Not usually—unless required by the funder.*

Q: What about confidential data?

A: *Use privacy-friendly or offline tools only.*

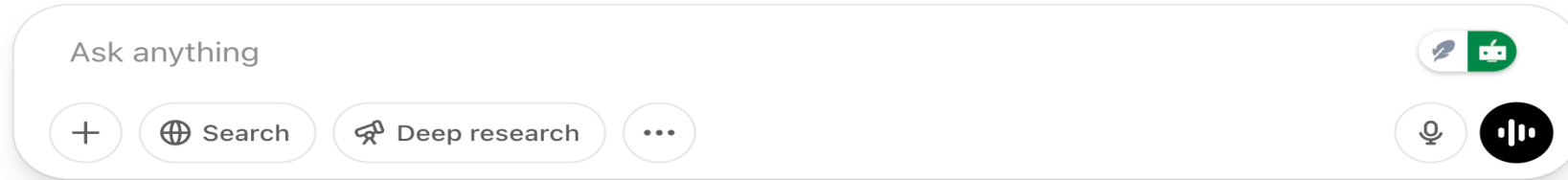
In summary:  
*Use AI as a thinking aid*

ChatGPT can help you:

- Highlight the gap & relevance of your research
- Find recent sources
- Translate technical ideas clearly
- Reflect critically on your structure
- Adjust tone/style to fit the funder

Strong prompts  
to boost your grant proposal

## What can I help with?

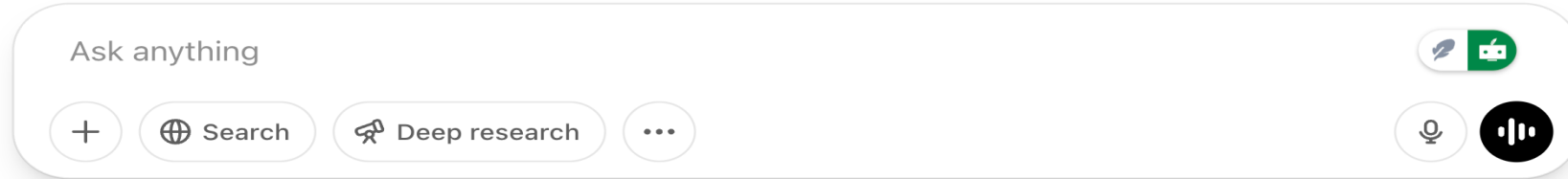


Hi! I am a researcher at the NKI in the field of cancer immunotherapy, with expertise in tumor microenvironments and T-cell activation. We want to apply for a grant from KWF (Dutch Cancer Society) to fund a three-year research project. Our plan is to investigate how immune checkpoint inhibitors can be optimized by targeting specific suppressive cells in the tumor microenvironment. This project aims to improve treatment efficacy for melanoma patients, and is highly relevant given the limited response rates to current immunotherapies and the urgent need for predictive biomarkers.

**Write the executive summary (max 1000 words) of the grant proposal, including the project's background, objective, innovation, and potential impact on clinical outcomes.**



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# What can I help with?



Ask anything



+

 Search

 Deep research

...

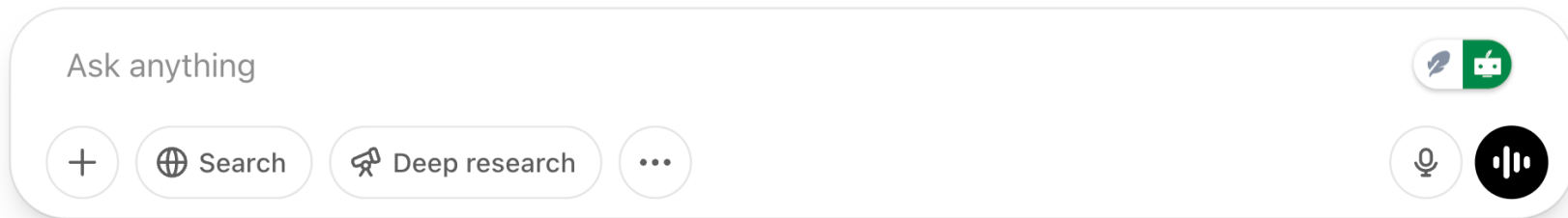
 

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**Help me build my executive summary by providing an outline with bulletpoints for topics and questions I need to address in this summary.**



## What can I help with?



*“.....your answers in short.....”*

Here are the short answers to the questions you provided earlier in this chat. Now write a first draft based on these answers. Do not add content, just rephrase my input into a concise and coherent text.

### **Then (for example):**

Give suggestions to adapt this draft to the goals and priorities of the KWF.

or:

Suggest small ways to align naturally with the mission of the KWF.

Basic principle: never ask the tool to provide text out of the blue, with no more than context, topic or goal. Give it **your content** (in rough text, in an outline, in short answers to readers' questions).

See the following slides for suggestions.

# Ask for feedback – from a target reader

## First, give context!

“You are a committee member of the grant provider. (Upload papers van dit lid.) As such, read my concept proposal and answer the following questions:

- Do you have any (critical) questions?
- How do you appreciate (the choice / formulation of) the gap of knowledge?
- Any missing information?
- Any unnecessary information?
- Is this draft sufficiently tailored to your background and profile?

## Finally:

Number your comments according to this list and explain them.

# Prompting for formulation

“Edit the following paragraph, so that the readability is better, but remember that the target audience are medical professionals. Comment on your own suggestions by giving me the reason and the explanation.

Follow this scheme:

- (1) sentence to be edited,
- (2) why it needs to be edited,
- (3) suggested new sentence,
- (4) explanation. Are these instructions clear?”

## Exercise 1: Ask for an outline

Enter a prompt asking the tool to design an outline for an executive summary or other part of a grant proposal.

! Start this prompt with the context of the grant proposal.

Describe the desired form of the outline (list of bullet points, list of questions the text should answer in a table, or something else).

Continue to adjust ChatGPT until you have a good output.

## Exercise 2: Ask for a first draft

Answer one of the following questions in short terms.

1. What is the project about? Who will it help?
2. What is the end goal for the project, and how will the achievement be measured?
3. Why should your organization receive the grant? What are the organization's competencies?

Enter your answers as a prompt and ask the tool to turn your text into a coherent paragraph.

**Note:** Always provide context first, describing the mission of both parties.



### Exercise 3: Explore a reviewerproof summary

Provide a project description in a few lines.

Ask ChatGPT to:

1. Generate an ultra-short summary of max 150 words
2. Make a list of possible critical questions from reviewers
3. Suggestions on how you could address those questions in the summary

# Other Tools

- [Perplexity.ai](https://perplexity.ai)
- [Scispace.com](https://scispace.com)
- [Notebooklm.com](https://notebooklm.com)

Paste text into the tools: Command + **Shift** + V to delete make up in the text