**How to Run the Chatbot Application**

To run the chatbot application, please follow these steps:

1. **Extract and Open the Folder:**
   * Ensure all three required files are together in the same folder:
     + chatbot.exe – the main application file
     + athabasca\_faqs.json – contains the chatbot’s local question-and-answer data
     + .env – securely stores the OpenAI API key
2. **Launch the Application:**
   * Double-click the chatbot.exe file to open the chatbot.
   * The application will start with a user-friendly interface titled “Ask AU – AI Chatbot.”
3. **Using the Chatbot:**
   * You may type your question in the input box and press Enter or click Send.
   * Alternatively, click on one of the Quick Questions buttons to instantly see information on topics such as:
     + Contact Info for Athabasca University
     + How to apply to Athabasca University
     + General university information
4. **Chatbot Features:**
   * Answers common questions using a local FAQ file
   * Falls back to OpenAI’s API when no match is found
   * Displays URLs as clickable links
   * Includes a “Typing…” simulation and a chat clear confirmation feature
   * Runs entirely as a Windows desktop application—no installation needed
5. **Requirements:**
   * An internet connection is required to access OpenAI when needed.
   * No setup or installation is necessary; the application runs as a standalone .exe.