

A network diagram with black lines and nodes on a light blue background, partially obscured by a white diagonal shape.

**The
Alan Turing
Institute**

Studentship Application Guidance

Doctoral studentships 2019

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Eligibility

Standard eligibility criteria*

- Successful admission to one of our partner universities. Students will be expected to meet the admissions, progression and training requirements of that department and university.
- Candidates must hold or expect to hold a UK first or upper second-class honours degree, or equivalent qualification, in a discipline relevant to data science.
- Candidates will normally have relevant research experience gained through their Bachelor's degree, Masters or work experience.
- At least two satisfactory academic or relevant work placement/employment references.
- Students will need to provide acceptable proof of legal right to study in the UK or ability to satisfy the current requirements of UK Visa and Immigration.
- Student must satisfactorily pass the Institute's security screening process which includes a basic Disclosure and Barring Service check.

*Please check eligibility criteria of your chosen department and university as these may differ slightly.

Are there nationality or other eligibility restrictions?

There are no nationality restrictions. However, applicants be able to remain and study legally in the UK for the duration of the studentship and are responsible for applying for any visas where relevant. Your home university will be able to provide you with advice and guidance on the visa application process and will support your application. The Turing cannot take any responsibility for applying for a visa on your behalf, however we can provide letters confirming the details of your studentship including stipend amount.

Candidates are advised that competition for international places is usually more intense.

Do I need to do an English test if I have a degree from a UK University?

Students are required to meet the entry requirements of their partner university including any English language requirements. Please check with your chosen department for details.

What is The Alan Turing Institute looking for?

Participating in The Alan Turing studentship scheme offers the opportunity to collaborate with academics and other students from a broad range of disciplines. We expect our students to embrace the opportunity to enrich their research and broaden their learning through their time here.

Projects of an interdisciplinary nature are particularly valued at the Turing, as are projects that engage with the Institute's research [challenges](#). Alignment with a programme will enable a student to have more connections at the Institute to share ideas with and allow greater development of their project.

Spending time at the Turing will enable students to learn new skills from their interactions with academic staff and our team of Research Software Engineers within the Institute. Clearly identifying how you would utilise this environment and opportunities for interaction is important for a strong application

Students must be willing to be based for at least 50% of their time at the Institute headquarters in London.

Application Process

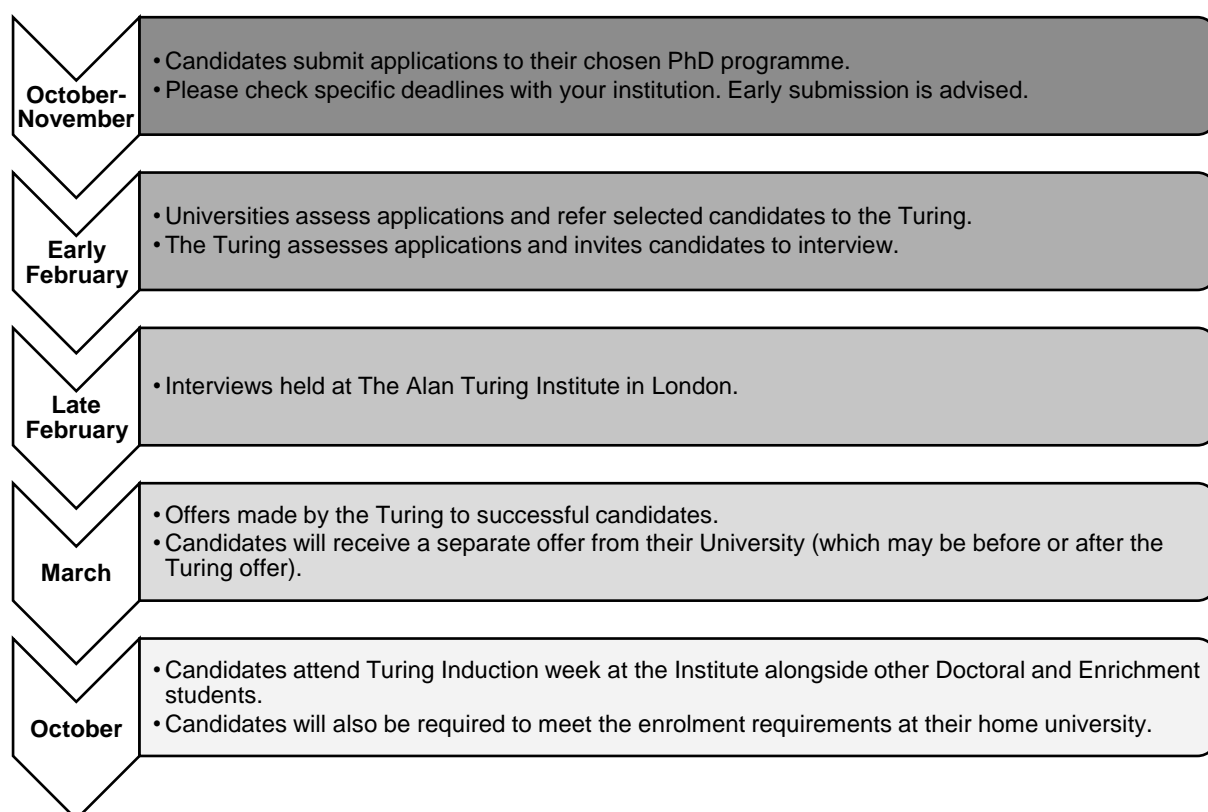
How to apply

This year all applications should be made directly to the candidate's chosen university PhD programme. Candidates may choose the department and supervisor most applicable to their project but should consider the research areas of the Turing and supervisors associated with the Institute.

Candidates can view a list of current Turing Fellows from 11 of our partner universities [here](#). Fellows from Bristol and Southampton will join us at a later date to reflect the later time at which they joined the Institute network. Prospective students for the University of Southampton should contact their chosen department and for the University of Bristol should email jgi-admin@bristol.ac.uk expressing an interest in the Turing doctoral studentships.

Your chosen university will complete an initial assessment of your application and will refer selected candidates to the Institute in early February. If put forward, you will then be invited to attend a further interview at The Alan Turing Institute. Successful candidates will be awarded the Turing studentship.

Application timeline



What if my application to my university is successful but I am not offered a Turing studentship?

If you are not offered the Turing studentship there may be other funding sources available to you. We recommend contacting your university or looking on their funding pages for other available options.

Can I request feedback?

Candidates who are invited to interview may request feedback. Please note that feedback will only be available to unsuccessful candidates for up to 6 months after their application. Unfortunately given the volume of applications we are not able to give feedback to those candidates who are not invited to interview.

How can I request reasonable adjustments to the application process?

The Alan Turing Institute is committed to creating an environment where diversity is valued and everyone is treated fairly. We encourage candidates to let us know about any reasonable adjustments they may require. You may already know what you would like to request, or you may like to have a general discussion of your options.

We will treat any information you disclose to us as sensitive and will handle it in line with the **Data Protection Act**. Information will only be used to arrange reasonable adjustments and will not be used to assess your application.

To discuss an adjustment to the application process please contact our team directly at academic-recruitment@turing.ac.uk or on +44 (0)20 3862 3345.

Application guidance

What areas of data science are relevant to the Institute?

Graduates who are significantly engaged in any of the following academic disciplines are invited to apply, particularly those candidates whose work covers multiple disciplines:

- Algorithms
- Applications of data science
- Architectures
- Computer systems and programming languages for data science
- Computer vision
- Culture and media
- Data-centric engineering
- Defence and Security
- Digital humanities
- Distributed systems
- Economic data science
- Ethics for data science
- Experiments
- Government
- Health and wellbeing
- Logic
- Machine learning - applications
- Machine learning - deep learning
- Machine learning - reinforcement learning
- Machine learning - statistical inference
- Machine learning - unsupervised
- Natural language processing
- Networks
- Numerical methods and optimization
- Privacy and trust
- Public policy
- Pure and applied mathematics
- Smart cities
- Social data science/computational social science
- Statistical methodology
- Statistical theory

How should I choose which University/Department to apply to?

Candidates should apply to the University and department that they feel is best suited to their project or area of interest. You should consider potential supervisors when making your choice as well as your own personal circumstances. Candidates are reminded that they are required to spend at least 50% of their time based at The Alan Turing Institute in London.

Which PhD programme should I apply to?

This will vary depending on your interests, supervisor and project. The Turing accepts students registered to a broad range of departments.

How do I choose a supervisor?

Candidates should choose a supervisor who is most suited to supporting their chosen project or area of interest. To be considered for the Turing doctoral studentship your supervisor should be affiliated with the Institute. Candidates can view a list of current Turing Fellows from 12 of our partner universities on our [website](#). Fellows from the University of Southampton will join us at a later date to reflect the later time at which they joined the

Institute network. Prospective students for the University of Southampton should contact their chosen department expressing an interest in the Turing doctoral studentships.

Whilst an applicant might have an idea of what they will work on for their PhD, this does not have to be confirmed during the application stage. It is commonplace for the subject of the PhD to change from its start to the end.

Do I need to supply references?

Your university will normally ask you to supply academic references as part of your application. References provided as part of your university application will be sent on to the Institute.

The Turing will require at least two references as part of our security screening process.

How will my application be assessed?

Your application will initially be assessed by your university. For details of how this is done please contact your relevant department. If your application is passed to the Turing you will be assessed by a panel of reviewers comprising of Turing Research Fellows, Turing Fellows and/or representatives from the Turing's research programmes. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to interview. Interviews will be held on the **26th or 27th of February 2019**.

Will the Turing cover travel and expenses to attend an interview?

The Institute will cover the cost of your travel expenses (up to a maximum amount, which you will be informed about if invited to interview). You (the student) will need to cover the cost of any visa requirements.

Is it possible to attend the interview remotely?

Where possible we do recommend face-to-face interviews but are able to offer remote interviews to candidates. We require all candidates to have met with their supervisor (in person or remotely) in advance of the interview for your application to be eligible. Interviews will be held at the Turing's headquarters in the British Library on the **26th or 27th of February 2019**.

Can I reapply if I have been unsuccessful previously?

If you were unsuccessful in a previous application, you may reapply. However, please be aware that there have been changes to the doctoral studentship recruitment process and criteria may vary. You may be interested in looking into other opportunities offered by the Institute such as our [Data Study Groups](#).

Studying at the Turing

Is it possible to join the Institute at a different time of the year?

We only take on doctoral students in October, at the beginning of each academic year. We don't currently have any opportunities for students to start with us at other times of the year.

What is the duration of the Turing doctoral studentship?

The duration of the Turing doctoral studentship 3.5 years full time.

Can I undertake the studentship part-time?

It is unlikely that a part-time PhD would be considered, given the level of work expected in undertaking a PhD. However, part-time applications may be judged on a case by case basis and would need to be approved and determined by an applicant's supervisor.

Are students based in London?

Students are based at the Institute headquarters (in the British Library) for at least half of their studentship. Students will need to liaise with their supervisor/university partner institution regarding location requirements. The Researcher Development and Training team can offer advice about accommodation and relocation to London ahead of the beginning of your studentship. In addition, students will be able to claim reasonable travel expenses for necessary visits back to their home university when based in London, in line with the Institute's student travel and expenses guidelines.

Do I have to be based at the Institute for my first year?

Students may choose whether to spend their first year of study at the Institute or their home university and should discuss their options with their supervisor and consider their own personal circumstances. Some students find the more structured environment of their university helpful in their first year, however if students do choose to spend this time away from the Turing there will be an expectation to travel down for training events. The cost of this travel will usually be covered as a reasonable expense.

What facilities does the Turing have?

All students will be loaned a laptop for the duration of their studentship. We offer either Mac or Windows options.

Among the research benefits at the Turing are:

- a standing taskforce of Software Engineers/Data Scientists
- access to Microsoft Azure cloud credits, Intel cluster, HPC
- access to seed-funding and workshop funding
- access to the workspace in the British Library and a Turing email account
- support from the Institute's Research Management and Facilitation team with bids for externally funded Turing collaborative projects
- opportunities to collaborate with researchers working in other domains, including in Turing Interest Groups
- opportunities to engage with industry partners and government, benefiting from the Turing's position as a national institute
- a physical, collaborative space with no disciplinary boundaries

How will the Turing monitor my progress?

Doctoral students must conform to their home university's assessment and engagement requirements. In addition, doctoral students may be asked to provide a progress report towards the end of the first year. This will be used to evaluate and support the long-term success of the student.

What support is available to students at the Turing?

We have dedicated student services support at the Turing to provide help and advice throughout your time with us. In addition to this, you will be able to access all services offered by your home university.

As part of the Turing doctoral studentship scheme you will join the community of students and researchers based in our London headquarters and be able to access peer support, advice and guidance through your time in our office.