Enrichment Application Guidance 2019

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Eligibility

Eligibility criteria
Students must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Students must be registered on a doctoral programme at a UK university and have the support of their university to study away for the duration of the placement.
- Students may not be in their first year of study or writing up their thesis during their enrichment placement (calculated as within 3 months of their proposed submission date).
- The student's supervisor or equivalent must support their application and be willing to continue supervising them while at The Turing.
- Students must hold a valid Right to Study in the UK.
- Students must satisfactorily pass the Institute's security screening process which includes a basic Disclosure and Barring Service check.

Can I apply if I am in my first year of my PhD?
You may apply during your first year of your PhD, as long as you do not intend to start your enrichment placement until your second year. We encourage applicants in their first year to consider the benefits of a January start, to allow for adequate time to complete any transfer or conversion requirements at their home university.

Are there nationality or other eligibility restrictions?
There are no nationality restrictions. However, applicants must be able to remain and study legally in the UK for the duration of their placement. Unfortunately, the Turing cannot sponsor a visa on your behalf, therefore students must already hold a valid proof of Right to Study in the UK.

The enrichment scheme is only currently open to students registered at a UK university.

What is The Alan Turing Institute looking for?
Candidates will be reviewed against the following criteria:

- The student demonstrates excellence in a field related to data science or artificial intelligence.
- The student's research project strongly aligns to the research challenges of the Turing.
- The application is supported by strong references from the student's supervisor or equivalent and another referee who can speak to their academic ability and suitability for the scheme.
- The student has demonstrated how they would benefit from their time at the Turing including considering potential collaboration or learning opportunities.
- The applicant has identified how they could meaningfully contribute to the Turing community.

Participating in The Alan Turing enrichment 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
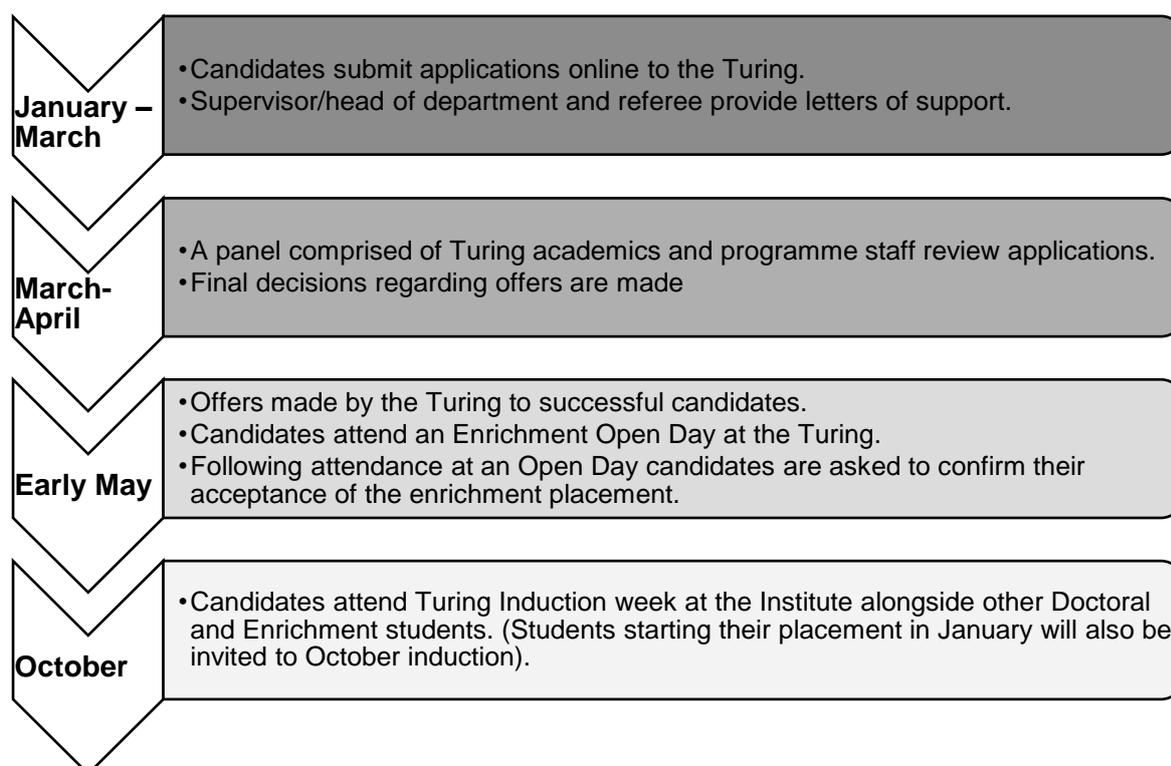
Students must be willing to be based for at the Institute headquarters in London for the duration of their placement.

Application Process

How to apply

Candidates apply directly to the Turing through our Flexigrant application system. The application form will ask for details of your project, why you are interested in applying to the Turing and what you hope to get out of your time here. You will need to submit your CV as well as your award letter if you are currently in receipt of a studentship. You will also be asked to invite your supervisor and an additional academic referee to submit letters of support. The deadline for applications is 11 March 2019 12pm.

Application timeline

January – March	•Candidates submit applications online to the Turing. •Supervisor/head of department and referee provide letters of support.
March-April	•A panel comprised of Turing academics and programme staff review applications. •Final decisions regarding offers are made
Early May	•Offers made by the Turing to successful candidates. •Candidates attend an Enrichment Open Day at the Turing. •Following attendance at an Open Day candidates are asked to confirm their acceptance of the enrichment placement.
October	•Candidates attend Turing Induction week at the Institute alongside other Doctoral and Enrichment students. (Students starting their placement in January will also be invited to October induction).

Choosing start dates and length of placement

The Turing recommends you discuss your choice of start dates and length of placement with your supervisor. It is suggested that you time your placement to compliment the length of your research project. For some students this may mean an enrichment placement early on in their research to develop new techniques, while others may wait until their project is well defined before making use of the resources available. We encourage applicants to consider the benefits of a January start, particularly for those students who have just completed their first year.

Can I request feedback on my application?

Candidates may request feedback. Please note that feedback will only be available to unsuccessful candidates for up to 6 months after their application.

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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 2018**.** 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?

Students 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
- Artificial intelligence
- Computer systems and programming languages for data science
- Computer vision
- Culture and media
- Data-centric engineering
- Data science at scale
- 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

Do I need to supply references?

As part of your application you will be required to supply two references. Your primary supervisor or head of department will be required to submit a letter of support. You are also asked to invite a separate individual to provide an academic reference.

Your supervisor should testify to your ability as a researcher in a formal context. They will be required to upload a PDF letter of support to the application system, detailing your academic ability, suitability to the enrichment placement and agreement to your studying at the Turing. Your referee should provide a letter of reference which should consider academic ability and your ability to engage with collaboration and learning opportunities.

You will be unable to submit your application until your reference has been uploaded and your supervisor has provided their letter of support. Please note that all supervisors are asked to

commit to visiting the Institute at least once per month whilst keeping regular contact with their student. We recommend you inform your supervisor and referee in advance that they will be asked to register and submit a letter of support in order for you to submit your application.

In addition to this, 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 undergo an initial eligibility screening. Following this your application will be reviewed by a panel including Turing Research Fellows, Turing Fellows, representatives from the Turing's research programmes and/or and the Researcher, Development and Training team. There will not be an interview for candidates.

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 enrichment scheme 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.

When will I hear back?
All candidates will hear the outcomes of their application by early May. Please do not contact us for an update on your application prior to this date.

What is the Enrichment Open Day?
The Enrichment Open Day is an opportunity for successful candidates to find out more about the Turing and their upcoming Enrichment placement. On the Open Day you will hear presentations from students already undertaking an Enrichment placement will be given a tour of the institute. The open day is not part of the assessment process. Candidates will be asked to confirm their placement after attending the open day.

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<u>Studying at the Turing</u>

Is it possible to join the Institute at a different time of the year?
Enrichment students may join the Institute in either October 2019 or January 2020.
It is not currently possible to apply for deferred entry to the enrichment scheme.

What is the duration of the Turing enrichment scheme?
We offer three lengths of enrichment placement; 6, 9 or 12 months.

Can I undertake the enrichment scheme if I am doing a part-time PhD?
It is possible to participate in the enrichment scheme if you are doing a part-time PhD. Please contact us at academic-recruitment@turing.ac.uk or on +44 (0)20 3862 3345 for more details of this option.

Are students based in London?
Students are based at the Institute headquarters (in the British Library) for the entirety of their placement. The Institute has an agreement with the University of London Housing Services who can offer advice about accommodation and housing contracts ahead of the beginning of your placement. 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. As relocating for the enrichment scheme is a major change in circumstances, we encourage students to consider the impact of this change as they prepare an application.

What facilities does the Turing have?
All students will be loaned a laptop for the duration of their enrichment placement. We currently offer either Mac or Windows options.

Among the research benefits at the Turing are:

- a standing taskforce of Research 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?
Enrichment students must conform to their home university's assessment and engagement requirements. In addition, students will be asked to provide reports and presentations during their placement detailing the outcomes of their time at the Turing.

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 well as the Turing's employee assistance programme which includes a telephone counselling service.

As part of the Turing enrichment 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.

How much is the stipend top up?
The stipend top up will vary depending on a student's existing stipend and length of placement. The maximum top up is calculated as the difference between the UKRI indicative stipend and the Turing Studentship stipend of £20,500. For 2019/20 the expected maximum is £5,500 per annum. This figure will be pro-rated for placements less than 1 year.

How frequently do students receive the stipend top up?
The stipend top up is paid by the Turing to your home university, who then administer it to the student. The timings of stipend payments are therefore set by the home university, however the Turing suggests payments are made in line with existing stipend payments.

How can the travel allowance be used by students?
The travel allowance is for students to visit their home university from their usual place of residence to meet with their supervisor. It cannot be used to commute from their usual place of residence to the Turing or for any other activity, such as training and conference attendance.

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