

The Alan Turing Institute



2019 Enrichment scheme cohort

2020 Enrichment scheme

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Summary

The Enrichment scheme offers students currently enrolled on a doctoral programme at a UK university the opportunity to join us for up to 12 months at the Turing. Students continue their PhD in conjunction with their current supervisor, while enriching their research and making new collaborations during their time at the Institute.

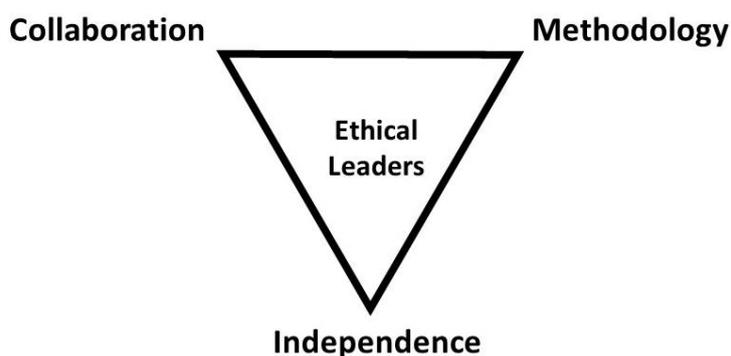
This document provides guidance for applicants and details of how to apply. We also recommend you review our [Frequently Asked Questions](#). Supervisors may wish to review the Guidance for Supervisors.

About the Enrichment scheme

The Enrichment scheme offers placements of 6,9 or 12 months at the Turing headquarters in London to students undertaking a PhD.

The Enrichment scheme has been designed to give students the opportunity to enhance, refresh, and broaden their research by accessing the facilities and opportunities available at The Alan Turing Institute. The placement should support and enhance the current work towards the PhD thesis and be supported by the student's supervisor. Students usually join us in their second or third years to further the work they are undertaking for their research project. There is no 'typical' Enrichment student and we welcome students from a broad range of disciplines.

While on placement students are expected to work out of the Turing offices in the British Library. To support relocation and travel costs the award provides either a stipend top-up and/or expenses allowance for eligible students.



Collaborate

Enrichment students have the opportunity to find new collaborators for their research project, or to start a collaboration on something related to their field. Upon starting a placement students join a cohort from across the UK, as well as the range of researchers already active at the Turing. Collaboration is encouraged at the Institute

though interest groups, seminars, events and workshops and engagement with the Turing's research programmes.

Learn and apply new methodologies

We encourage our Enrichment students to learn and apply new methodologies to enrich their research. Learning is supported through our training programme as well as the support of our in-house research software engineering team. Students will be able to apply to use the computing resources available at the Turing. Students will also have access to academic and subject specific mentors while at the Turing.

Develop research independence

The Enrichment placement is also an opportunity for doctoral candidates to develop some research independence as they progress in their studies. The inspiration from learning and collaboration may prompt new ideas that can be further developed in the future.

An ethical core

Considering the ethical implications of research is a core part of all the work at the Turing. All Turing students are encouraged to examine the ethical issues in their own projects and discuss them with others. Students are encouraged to engage with the Turing Ethics Committee, as well as contributing to ongoing discussions regarding fairness and transparency through projects such as The Turing Way, our open source guide and gold-standard in developing reproducible data science projects.

Changes for 2020 Enrichment

As the Enrichment scheme enters its 5th year, the Turing are pleased to announce that for the 2020/21 academic year we will be expanding our Enrichment cohort and will offer up to 50 places to students from universities across the UK.

Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of the Enrichment scheme are to:

1. Deliver on the Institute's goal to *Train the leaders of the future* by providing:
 - a. An enhancement to the work of doctoral students in the UK and supporting PhD completion within suitable timeframes.
 - b. an opportunity to learn new skills from others in the Turing environment and to discover new methods and new applications for their research.
 - c. an opportunity to collaborate with the Turing research community.
 - d. an opportunity to develop research independence.
 - e. an awareness of the ethical considerations of data science and AI.
2. To enhance the Turing research community and the Turing network with the inclusion of outstanding students from across the UK to support the Turing to deliver world class research programmes.

3. To grow the Data Science and AI fields in the UK more widely and support and promote research that has a positive impact on society.

Duration and location

There are a range of options for placements designed to suit students' individual circumstances.

Placement length

Placements may be 6,9 or 12 months. Applicants can indicate their preferred length on the application form and will be usually be offered their preference.

Start date

For the 2020 recruitment cycle we will offer two start dates: October 2020 or January 2021.

Full time/ part time

Students may choose to apply for a full time or part time placement. The minimum number of days per week is 1 working day present at the Turing. The type of financial award offered will depend on the applicants chosen FTE.

Award

Students may be eligible for a stipend top up to support them during their placement. Stipend top ups are calculated as the difference between the student's stipend and the Turing doctoral stipend up to an estimated maximum of £7000 per annum.¹

Students who choose to spend 3 – 5 days a week at the Turing (0.6-1 FTE) will usually receive a stipend top-up, which will be pro-rated where appropriate.

Students who choose to spend 1 or 2 days a week at the Turing (0.2-0.4 FTE) will usually receive a travel expenses allowance.

The Turing is committed to improving access for all students to the Enrichment scheme and awards may vary according to student circumstances. Please contact us at academic-recruitment@turing.ac.uk or on 0203 862 3345 if you would like to discuss this further.

Eligibility and assessment criteria

Eligibility criteria

Students must meet all the following eligibility criteria to be considered for the scheme.

- 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.

¹ The maximum is calculated as the difference between the UKRI minimum stipend and the Turing minimum stipend. Figure to be confirmed following confirmation of UKRI stipend rates for 2020/21.

- Students must be in the “active research phase” which is defined as their second or third year of research (not including training years) and complete their placement at least 3 months before their 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.

Assessment criteria

The Turing will use the following criteria to assess applications. When preparing their application, students should demonstrate how they meet the following criteria.

Applicant

- Demonstrates research excellence suitable to their PhD progression in a field related to data science or artificial intelligence.
- Evidence of developing skills in key technical areas related to data science and/or AI (e.g. mathematics, statistics, programming, algorithms, data analytics, applications).
- Supported by strong references from the student’s supervisor or equivalent and another referee who can speak to their suitability for the scheme including how the scheme will support completion.
- Demonstrates communication skills and the ability to collaborate with others, ideally in a research setting.

Research proposal

- The research proposal is technically sound, clear, and demonstrates a good understanding of the topic and the potential for contribution to science.
- The research proposal represents an original contribution to the field and the research community at the Turing.
- Candidate demonstrates how they would benefit from their time at the Turing including how a placement at the Turing would contribute to the completion of their PhD and would enhance and support their thesis.

Relevance to the Turing

- The applicant’s research project strongly engages with the research challenges of the Turing.
- The applicant has identified the areas of their research that they could meaningfully develop and collaborate on at the Turing and has considered how this could be achieved.

Application process

Timeline

Application stage	Key Dates
Applications open	20 th November to 21 st January
Application review period	February - April
Outcomes communicated	By 8 th May

How to apply

Candidates should discuss the scheme with their supervisor and university department to gain their approval to participate. We recommend sharing the [Guidance Note for Universities](#) with your department.

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 also need to submit the following:

- Copy of your award letter if in receipt of a funded studentship
- Your supervisors' details and the details of another referee (who will be invited to submit a reference through the system)

The deadline for applications is 21 January 2019 at 12:00pm GMT.

Assessment process

All applicants are assessed on their application form and references only. Applicants will not be invited to interviews for the Enrichment scheme.

Applications will first be checked for eligibility. All eligible applications will then be reviewed by academics from the Turing community. All reviews will be checked for fairness.

Successful applications will then be put forward to a final panel to decide award based on merit. Should numerous applications be deemed to be of equal merit, the Turing reserves the right to award based on diversity of research area.

The Turing reserves the right to reject applicants who do not meet the criteria at any stage.

Equality, diversity and inclusion



We hope that the Enrichment scheme will attract a diverse pool of applicants. All applications will be considered on their merits. Applicants can be of any nationality

and applicants from under-represented groups are encouraged to apply. We welcome applicants from all Universities, or who have taken a career break.

The Alan Turing Institute is a Disability Confident organisation. As part of our commitment to supporting individuals with disabilities, we will guarantee assessment at panel (the final stage of the assessment process) for all applicants who disclose a disability (as defined by the Equality Act 2010).

As part of this commitment we recognise that there may be individual circumstances that we need to be aware of. We aim to accommodate specific needs and personal circumstances, but are reliant on applicants sharing this information with us

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. There is also a section on the application form where applicants may make us aware of individual circumstances.

You may already know what adjustments you require, or may like to have a confidential discussion around your options. Further information relating to communicating your requirements can be found in the [FAQs](#).

We will treat any information you disclose to us as sensitive and will handle it in line with the Data Protection Act 2018. You find out more information about how handle your personal data in our Transparency notice.

Enrichment Access Fund

As part of our commitment to inclusion, we recognise that some groups face additional barriers to participating in the Enrichment Scheme. For Enrichment 2020 we are therefore launching an Access Fund to support students to participate who otherwise would not be able to due to an additional need or caring responsibility. The fund provides expenses awards of up to £500 per month and applications will be assessed separately to the main call.

Students with caring responsibilities may for example choose to use the fund to support additional childcare costs, or a student with a disability may use the fund to secure appropriate accommodation or support while in London. For more details please see our [FAQs](#).

Students can apply for the fund as part of their application. If you would to discuss your application, please do contact us at academic-recruitment@turing.ac.uk or on 02038623345.

Further information

For further information please see our [FAQs](#).

Questions can be emailed to academic-recruitment@turing.ac.uk or can be discussed by phoning +44 (0) 203 862 3345.