

A network diagram with nodes and connecting lines, overlaid on a light blue background. The diagram is partially obscured by a large blue diagonal shape that covers the bottom and left portions of the page.

**The
Alan Turing
Institute**

Enrichment FAQs 2020

Contents

Eligibility.....	3
Can I apply if I am in my first year of my PhD?	3
Are there nationality or other eligibility restrictions?	3
Who is The Alan Turing Institute looking for?.....	3
Application Guidance	4
Application timeline.....	4
How do I choose the length or placement and my start date?.....	4
Can I request feedback on my application if I am unsuccessful?	4
How can I request reasonable adjustments to the application process?	4
What areas of data science are relevant to the Institute?	5
Do I need to supply references?	6
Should I inform my department before applying?.....	6
What if my supervisor has questions?	6
Do I have to contact Turing Fellows before applying?.....	6
How will my application be assessed?.....	6
Can I reapply if I have been unsuccessful previously?.....	7
When will I hear back?	7
Studying at the Turing	7
Is it possible to join the Institute at a different time of the year?	7
What is the duration of the Turing Enrichment scheme?.....	7
Can I undertake the Enrichment scheme if I am doing a part-time PhD?	7
I'm doing a full time PhD, can I do my Enrichment placement part time?	7
Are students based in London?	7
What facilities does the Turing have?	8
What training is available?	8
What is the Enrichment Conference Fund?	8
How will the Turing monitor my progress?	8
What support is available to students at the Turing?.....	8
How much is the stipend top up?.....	9
How frequently do students receive the stipend top up?.....	9
How can the travel allowance be used by students?.....	9
What is the Enrichment Access Fund and who is it for?	9
How do I apply for the Enrichment Access Fund?	10
How can I find out more about the Enrichment scheme?	10

Eligibility

Can I apply if I am in my first year of my PhD?

You may apply during your first year of your PhD research, 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. It will be the student's responsibility to get approval from their university to study away if successful, which may involve informing your international office if you are on a Tier 4 visa. 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.

Who is The Alan Turing Institute looking for?

Candidates will be reviewed against the assessment criteria which are listed in the Call Document.

Participating in The Alan Turing enrichment scheme offers the opportunity to collaborate with other students and researchers 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. Building collaborations requires independence and for students to be proactive and we suggest students consider how they would respond to this type of research environment.

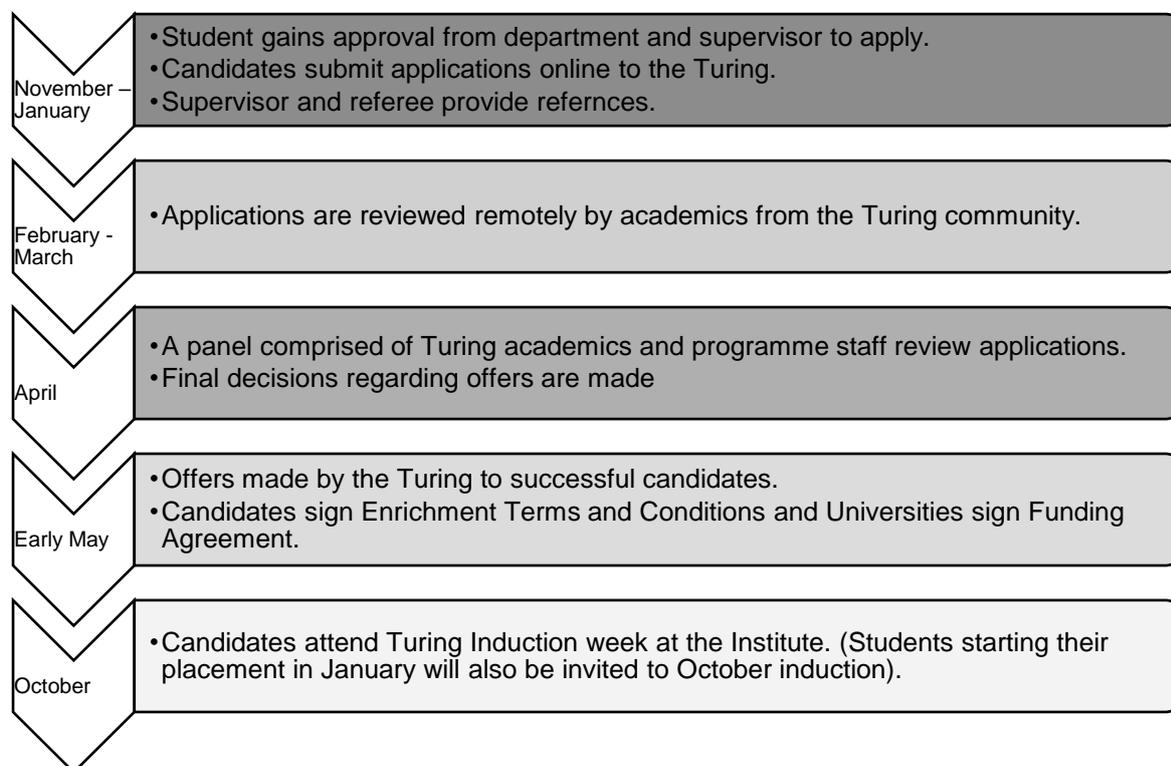
Projects of an interdisciplinary nature are particularly valued at the Turing, as are projects that engage with the Institute's research [challenges](#). Alignment with a programme will enable a student to have more connections at the Institute to share ideas with and allow greater development of their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

Application Guidance

Application timeline



How do I choose the length or placement and my start date?

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 if I am unsuccessful?

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

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.

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
- Government
- Health and wellbeing
- Law
- Logic
- Machine learning
- Natural language processing
- Networks
- Numerical methods and optimization
- Privacy and trust
- Public policy
- Pure and applied mathematics
- Social data science/computational social science
- Statistical methodology
- Statistical theory
- Urban analytics

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 reference. You are also asked to invite a separate individual to provide an academic reference.

Your referees should testify to your ability as a researcher in a formal context. They will be required to complete a structured reference form in the application system, detailing your academic ability, suitability to the Enrichment placement and agreement to your studying at the Turing.

You will be unable to submit your application until both references are complete. Please note that all supervisors are asked to commit to continuing supervision whilst students are on Enrichment placements. We recommend you inform your supervisor and referee in advance that they will be asked to register and submit references in order for you to submit your application. If either of your referees are unable to use the Flexigrant system please email academic-recruitment@turing.ac.uk for alternative arrangements.

In addition to this, the Turing will require at least two references as part of our security screening process.

Should I inform my department before applying?

Yes, you must inform your department to gain their permission before you apply. We strongly recommend students send their Head of Department, main administrative contact or other suitable individual the [Guidance Note for Universities](#) ahead of applying. If you are successful, we will ask for formal permission from your university to study away. We will also ask your university to administer any stipend top up you may be awarded.

What if my supervisor has questions?

We recommend supervisors review the [Guidance for Supervisors](#). Supervisors can contact academic-recruitment@turing.ac.uk or call +44 (0) 203 862 3345 with any questions.

Do I have to contact Turing Fellows before applying?

You are not expected to have contacted Turing Fellows, Research Fellows or Programmes before applying, however if you are in discussions regarding potential collaborations do feel free to mention this in your application.

While Turing Fellows support the assessment process, academics will not be able to review candidates for whom they have a conflict of interest.

How will my application be assessed?

Your application will undergo an initial eligibility screening. Following this your application will be reviewed by academics from the Turing community 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.

Studying at the Turing

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

Enrichment students may join the Institute in either October 2020 or January 2021. 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. The application form will ask you to indicate your preferred FTE (e.g. how many days a week you would like to be on placement).

Part time students spending 3 or more days per week at the institute will usually be offered a stipend top up. Students choosing to spend 1 or 2 days at the institute will usually be offered travel expenses to support commuting costs up to a set limit.

I'm doing a full time PhD, can I do my Enrichment placement part time?

Students can choose how they undertake their placement. You will be asked to briefly explain your choice on the application form. This will be reviewed as part of your application but will not be used in the final assessment of applications.

Are students based in London?

Students are expected to be at the Institute headquarters (in the British Library) for the entirety of their placement. There are no residency requirements for the Enrichment scheme.

The Institute can provide guidance on securing accommodation in London. 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
- opportunity to apply for Microsoft Azure cloud credits and other research resources
- opportunity to apply for the Enrichment Conference Fund
- access to the workspace in the British Library and a Turing email account
- 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
- access to training schemes and activities at staff rates

What training is available?

The Researcher Development and Training team run educational seminars throughout the year for Enrichment students. These are usually one or two day events focused on a specific skillset or research area. The Turing run cohort building activities and students will also have access to a range of Turing events including public lectures, internal events, seminars and reading groups. In order to contribute to the collaborative nature of the Turing, students are also encouraged to self-organise talks within the student body to build links within the cohort and learn from their peers.

What is the Enrichment Conference Fund?

The Turing Enrichment Conference Fund has been designed to support students to travel to conferences to present research enabled by their time at the Turing. The fund awards up to £400 to eligible students and is available for current and former Turing Enrichment students. Successful students will be given information on eligibility criteria and how to apply once they start their placement.

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.

Students will have a review meeting during their placement, usually within the first term and be asked to provide a report at the end of their placement. Some students may be asked to present their work at meetings or events on a voluntary basis.

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.

For research advice we currently provide both academic mentors and programme mentors to our cohorts of students. 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. For 2020/21 the expected maximum is £7000 per annum. This figure will be pro-rated for placements less than 1 year or less than 1FTE.

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?

This will depend on the type of placement a student chooses. For Full Time 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. Part time students may receive a travel allowance which can be used for commuting costs in place of stipend if they do not intend to relocate to London.

What is the Enrichment Access Fund and who is it for?

The Enrichment Access Fund provides financial support to students to participate who otherwise would not be able to due to a disability, additional need or caring responsibility.

The fund provides awards of up to £500 per month and applications will be assessed separately to the main call.

The fund is expected to support the following costs:

- Additional housing costs (e.g. specific location or access requirements)
- Additional childcare or other caring costs (e.g. beyond what the student would ordinarily incur)
- Additional support costs

The fund is not intended to provide support for students who do not meet the criteria above with the costs of moving to London and does not replace the stipend top up offered as standard to students apply for Enrichment who qualify.

How do I apply for the Enrichment Access Fund?

You can apply for the Enrichment Access fund through the Flexigrant form. The information you share will not be visible to reviewers and will be assessed separately to your research application.

As part of the application you will be asked to briefly outline the additional expenses you would incur by taking part in the Enrichment scheme and the reason for this.

We may need to follow up your application with a phone call to find out more details. This will not contribute to an assessment of your overall Enrichment application.

How can I find out more about the Enrichment scheme?

To help students prepare for their placement or find out if the scheme is right for them we will be running information sessions during the application period. The sessions will be based at the Turing headquarters and/or available via webinar. You can register for a free place online:

- **Tuesday 26th November 6pm-7.30pm**

- **Wednesday 4th December 10am-11.30am** (also available via webinar)

You can also watch our former students talking candidly about their experiences on our [YouTube channel](#).