

The Alan Turing Institute

Enrichment Scheme 2021-2022 Call



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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 (full or part-time) at the Turing. Students continue their PhD in conjunction with their current supervisor, while enriching their research and making new collaborations during their time with 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.

Covid-19 and the Enrichment Scheme

The Covid-19 pandemic resulted in the London Headquarters of the Institute being closed, and the subsequent cancellation of the 2020-21 Enrichment scheme. Although we hope that the situation will be improved by October 2021, with the Headquarters able to open and students to safely engage in person, there will continue to be some uncertainty as the global situation develops.

To enable us to recruit a highly competitive cohort of students we need to follow our established timetables for the application process. We will continue to learn about what works well with remote engagement this year and build on those successes. However, to deliver a suitable and safe programme we reserve the right to make changes to the delivery of the scheme in response to Government and Institute policy.

We will make it clear to candidates who progress through to later stages of the application process when the decision points on the scheme will be. This will enable you to make the best decisions about your engagement. **Candidates should not rely on any financial award from the scheme until it has been confirmed.**

Changes for 2021 Enrichment

As the Enrichment scheme enters its 6th year, the Turing are pleased to announce that for the 2021/22 academic year we will offer the following options:

Remote training and networking

Although replicating face-to-face interactions is more difficult in a virtual setting, extensive work is underway to pilot ways of enabling the Enrichment students to engage with one another remotely. This will include open online collaboration spaces and opportunities to interact with the wider Turing community, as well as the online

delivery of many of the flagship training programmes.

Size of the scheme

The 2021 Enrichment scheme will aim to recruit up to 80 participants. This will include some places for those who were part of the cancelled 2020 Enrichment scheme as well as new offer holders.

Alternative host locations

This year we can offer placements at different sites within the Turing university partnership. There will be three locations available:

- [The Alan Turing Institute](#), London. (50-60 students)
- [The Jean Golding Institute](#), University of Bristol. (10-15 students)
- [The Leeds Institute for Data Analytics](#), University of Leeds. (10-15 students)

Each site will aim to offer a similar Enrichment experience, but also access to unique opportunities.

For more details on the new sites please see below and our FAQs.

About the Enrichment Scheme

The Enrichment scheme offers placements of 6, 9 or 12 months at the Turing headquarters in London, at the Jean Golding Institute (University of Bristol) or at the Leeds Institute for Data Analytics (University of Leeds) 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 and its partners.

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 of a typical doctorate 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.

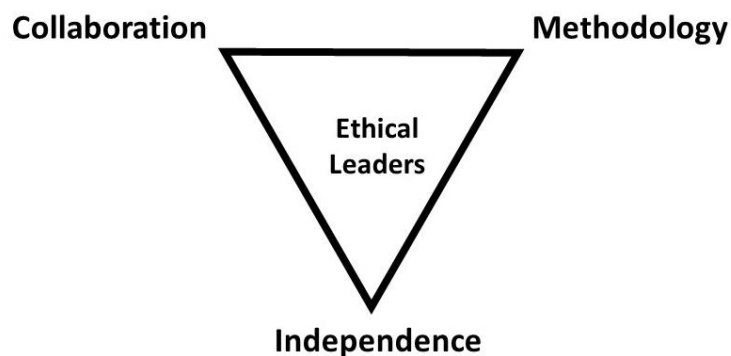
Under normal conditions, placement students are expected to work on-site at their host site. While remote engagement options are available, the community building aspects are a consistently important feature of the scheme and we expect students to engage in person when possible. Placements are available on a part time basis, and flexible working is welcomed. To support relocation and travel costs the award

provides either a stipend top-up and/or expenses allowance for eligible students.

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 diverse and 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.



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 and its partners through 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 events 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 through the Turing. Students will also have access to academic and subject specific mentors while at the Turing and its partners.

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 Enrichment 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 and the Turing Commons training resources, 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.

Duration and Location

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

Start date

For the 2021 recruitment cycle we will offer three start dates: October 2021, January 2022 or March 2022.

Placement length

Placements may be 6 or 9 or 12 months if started in October or January. Placements started in March will be limited to 6 or 9 months. Applicants can indicate their preferred length on the application form and will usually be offered their preference.

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. The type of financial award offered will depend on the applicants chosen FTE.

Location

This year we are offering placements at three locations. The inclusion of Leeds and Bristol as alternative locations has been developed to offer students alternatives that may work better for their personal circumstances or their project interests.

All of the locations are working together to offer a similar Enrichment scheme, and the scheme is being centrally coordinated by the Turing's Academic Programmes team. Access to central online training will be provided for all students.

In addition, there will be some resources and opportunities that are unique to each location, and these will be highlighted in the brochure for each location.

While the Enrichment scheme is open to all doctoral level students in the UK, we anticipate that spaces at the Bristol and Leeds locations would be suited to those who are **not** already studying at that university. However, there may be some cases when you are not already connected to those data science communities when a placement may be appropriate. Further details are provided in the FAQ.

Candidates can indicate their preferred location on the application form. This information will not be considered when evaluating a candidate's suitability for the scheme. Location preference will subsequently be used for allocating candidates to places.

Award

Students may be eligible for a stipend top up to support them during their placement. This is to ensure a good standard of living while relocating and on placement and is to be recognised as an award to enhance the accessibility of the Enrichment scheme.

Stipend top ups are calculated based on the difference between the student's stipend and the Turing doctoral stipend levels up to an estimated maximum of £6700 in London and £5200 in Bristol and Leeds. These values will be confirmed at the point of offer and are calculated based on Turing and UKRI standard rates.

Students who choose to spend 3 – 5 days a week on the scheme (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 on the scheme (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 +44 (0) 20 3862 3360 if you would like to discuss this further.

In addition to the stipend top-up there will be additional funds available for successful candidates to apply for to cover travel costs (e.g. visiting home university), training and conferences. Candidates will be eligible for the loan of the Turing research laptop and routes to apply for Turing cloud-computing resource. Please see the FAQ for more details.

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.
- Students must be in the “active research phase” which is defined as:
 - o having completed their first year of doctoral study (not including any masters or foundation years)
 - o not being within 3 month of their intended submission date or in the process of exclusively writing up their thesis during their placement.
- The student’s supervisor (or equivalent) must support their application and be willing to continue supervising them while taking part in the Enrichment Scheme.
- 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. Equivalent screening may be used at university partner locations.

Assessment Criteria

When assessing applicants, we look at the following areas:

- **Research proposal:** the research the student plans to undertake during the Enrichment scheme.
- **Skills:** the demonstration of the necessary skills to complete the proposed research.
- **Behaviours:** the actions and activities the student does that will help them to engage at the Turing.

Area	Description	Stage 1	Stage 2
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Skills	Evidence of developing skills in key technical areas related to data science and/or AI (e.g. mathematics, statistics, programming, algorithms, data analytics, applications).	X	X
Behaviours	Demonstrates the ability to communicate on their area of research to multi-disciplinary audiences and the ability to collaborate with others, ideally in a research setting.	X	X
	Demonstrates the skills they would like to learn during their time on the scheme including how the research proposal fits into their broader PhD study, and a placement would support the completion of their thesis.	X	X
Research proposal	The applicant clearly identifies areas of their research for development on the Enrichment scheme and how this could be achieved.	X	X
	The research proposal is technically sound, clearly communicated, demonstrates a good understanding of the topic and an original contribution to the field.		X
	The research proposal strongly engages with the research challenges of the Turing.		X

Application process

Timeline

Application stage	Key Dates
Applications open	7 December 2020
Applications close	2 February 2021
Application review period	8 February – 19 May 2021
Outcomes communicated	After 19 May 2021

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 scheme and what you hope to get out of your time with the Turing and its partners.

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 **2 February 2021, 12pm (noon) 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 go through a two-stage review process to be reviewed by members of 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 the diversity of an applicant's research area and desired location for their Enrichment placement. For this reason, we suggest candidates carefully select which areas of research their application relates to.

Decisions on location choice will be made once successful candidates have been identified with representatives from the respective universities.

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 the second stage 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 3360. 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 can find out more information about how we 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 this reason we offer a fund to support students to participate who otherwise would not be able to due to a disability 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 on placement. 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 +44 (0) 20 3862 3360.

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) 20 3862 3360.