

Turing Fellow Call 2021 Frequently Asked Questions

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Introduction

This Frequently Asked Questions document has been created to compliment the Turing Fellow Call Document and to provide applicants with an additional reference resource when completing the application stage.

Please ensure you have read the Call Document before applying to the Turing Fellow scheme.

If you have any questions or experience any difficulties completing the application, please email academic-engagement@turing.ac.uk or call +44 (0)20 3862 3521.

What are Turing Fellowships?

Turing Fellows are scholars with proven research excellence in data science, artificial intelligence or a related field whose research would be significantly enhanced through active involvement with the Turing network of universities and partners.

Turing Fellows contribute to new ideas, help drive collaborative projects that deliver impact, help grow the research capacity of the Institute, and contribute to the Institute's network of universities, industry partners, third sector organisations and government. They contribute to the activities and training at the core of the Institute's mission and the ongoing development of the next generation of researchers. They uphold and support the Turing Values.

You can find out more about our current and previous Turing Fellows [on our website](#).

Eligibility criteria

Who is eligible to apply for a Turing Fellowship?

The full eligibility criteria are listed in the Call Document. Applicants should consult these alongside the assessment criteria to determine if they are eligible. You may meet the criteria if you:

- Have an established research programme and area of expertise including relevant technical skills.
- Have an existing network of collaborators which you are looking to expand upon
- Hold or have held significant funding.
- Are looking to make high level collaborations and significant contributions to a multidisciplinary research space.
- Have experience of people management, mentoring and supporting other research team members.

The academic engagement team will be unable to confirm eligibility prior to submission of an application.

Are post-doctoral researchers and PhD students eligible?

Turing Fellowships are not suitable for researchers who are at the earlier stages of developing their independent research programme including those who have recently completed their PhD (post-doctoral researchers). While there is no set number of years of experience for applicants to this call, applicants are expected to demonstrate the high level skills and experience listed in the assessment criteria.

Current PhD students are not eligible for this call and should consider applying for the Turing's Enrichment Scheme or a Turing Data Study Group.

Can current Turing Fellows apply?

Current Turing Fellows wishing to be part of the 2021-2022 Turing Fellow cohort need to apply to this call. Current Turing Fellows who decide not to apply will not be renewed via another process and their fellowship will finish at their current agreed end date. Queries regarding the end date of an existing fellowship should be sent to the Turing University Lead of University Liaison Manager at your university.

Can I apply for a Turing Fellowship if I work part-time?

Yes, applicants who work part-time at a Turing partner university can apply.

What is the remit of this call? Which disciplines are eligible?

Applicants should be conducting research in the fields of data science, artificial intelligence or a related field to be eligible for this call. This includes research that is developing methodologies, techniques, tools and applications of data science and AI that could benefit the field.

We are particularly interested in applications which demonstrate how an applicant will contribute to the strategic goals of the Institute. Please refer to the call document for more details.

The academic engagement team will be unable to confirm whether an applicant's research area is eligible prior to submission of an application.

How will diversity be monitored?

All applicants will have the option of completing a monitoring form as part of the application process. This will allow The Alan Turing Institute to report on its equality and diversity aims. The completion of this form is voluntary, but the information it contains helps us to better understand the composition of our organisation and examine our practices fully. The information you provide will be kept confidentially in line with our Transparency Notice and will not be used during the recruitment process.

If you indicate a disability on this form, a member of our recruitment team may contact you to discuss reasonable adjustments we are able to offer. All personal information will be treated in accordance with the principles of the Data Protection Act (2018), and the data used for statistical monitoring will be anonymised and published in a way that does not allow individuals to be identified.

Fellowship duration

What are the dates of appointment?

All successful applicants will be appointed as Turing Fellows from 1 October 2021 for a 12-month period until 30 September 2022.

Will there be future calls and who will they be open to?

We anticipate there being Turing Fellowship calls in the future however details around eligibility, terms and conditions, timeframe and frequency have yet to be confirmed.

If applicants are unsuccessful, will they be able to reapply in future calls?

Yes, provided they meet any eligibility criteria outlined in future Turing Fellow calls.

Eligible organisations

Do I need to be employed at a Turing university partner to apply?

Yes, for this Turing Fellow Call, applicants must be employed at one of the [13 Turing university partners](#), and meet the eligibility criteria.

Are there institutional limits in place?

Each partner university will be able to recommend up to a maximum of 35 Turing Fellows via this call.

How will host organisations select which applications they will support?

Each host organisation will run its own internal review/selection process to select their applications following guidance provided by The Turing. Turing University Leads will be responsible for managing panel review at university partners, supported by the University Liaison Manager.

How should I secure employing organisation support?

Applicants will be required in the Flexi-Grant application form to indicate that they have approval from their Head of Department to apply for this Turing Fellow call.

Can I apply from a non-UK organisation?

For this particular call, applications will only be accepted from researchers employed at Turing university partners.

Is the Fellowship transferable?

Turing Fellowships may be transferable if the holder moves to another UK university before the end date of the Fellowship, subject to agreement from the receiving institution and the Institute (terms may vary dependent on the host organisation). The Fellow may be required to provide justification that there will be no adverse consequences to their engagement with the Institute.

Resources and benefits

Are these Turing Fellowships funded?

These Turing Fellowships are being offered on an unfunded basis.

Can Turing Fellows claim travel and subsistence expenses?

Appointed Turing Fellows can claim travel and subsistence expenses when travelling to the Institute in London and to other Turing university partners on Turing business. All claims need to be in line with the relevant travel and expenses policy.

Application process (Stage 1)

How do I apply?

Applicants should visit the Turing Fellow [call webpage](#) in order to read the Call Document and the complete an application via the Turing's Flexi-Grant portal.

Applicants must obtain the support of their employing university at application stage, as they will need to declare that they have Head of Department support within the application form. You are not required to submit a letter of support.

Reasonable adjustments

We will make reasonable adjustments for applicants who have a disability, to remove any substantial barriers their disability presents to their application, including to the assessment process. We encourage applicants 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.

To discuss an adjustment to the application process please contact our team directly at academic-engagement@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.

Assessment process (Stage 2)

How will my application be assessed?

Turing Fellowship applications will need to meet the eligibility and assessment criteria as set out in the in the call documentation. After an initial eligibility sift by the Turing, applications will be sent to the relevant university partner for review.

Who will be on the application review panels?

Eligible applications will be assessed by panel reviewers at the partner universities. The Turing and university partners will work together to establish suitable panels for application review (including ensuring both diversity of characteristics and research themes). For details of the specific panel at your university please contact your Turing University Lead.

Shortlisted applicants will not be required to participate in an interview stage as shortlisting will be carried out by panel review of the application form and associated documents.

Can I get feedback on my application?

Feedback will be available from university partners for up to 6 months after applicants receive the outcome of their application. Please contact your Turing University Lead to request feedback.

Relevant contacts

For further questions about the call, please contact the [Turing University Lead or University Liaison Manager](#) at your university. For specific questions about completing the application on the Flexi-Grant system, please contact academic-engagement@turing.ac.uk.