The Alan Turing Institute Post-Doctoral Enrichment Awards

Guidelines

Overview

The Alan Turing Institute is committed to training new generations of researchers applying data science and AI in their work with the necessary breadth and depth of technical and ethical skills to match the UK's growing industrial and societal needs. As part of this commitment and following the established success of the Turing Enrichment scheme for doctoral students, we are pleased to announce the inaugural Post-Doctoral Enrichment Award (PDEA) scheme. These awards are designed to provide early career researchers at UK Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), independent research organisations (IROs), and Research Institutes (RIs) an opportunity to enrich their research opportunities and network connections within the data science and artificial intelligence fields. This initiative will support the ongoing mission of the Turing to train the leaders of the future.

The programme offers small awards to facilitate post-doctoral activity in data science and AI throughout the UK. The aims are to generate immediate impact from the researchers and to build the foundations for an engaged post-doctoral community on which further initiatives can be built.

Aims and Objectives

The Turing's PDEA scheme is designed to provide development opportunities in three key areas. As a multidisciplinary research community, all these areas also support researchers in reaching out across established academic fields and working in new ways:

1. **Learn and apply new methodologies**
   a. An opportunity to learn new skills from others in the data science and AI environment and to discover new methods and new applications for their research.   We encourage our researchers to be open to learning new methodologies and applying that into the

research. At the post-doctoral level this may be strongly focused on the sharing of expertise that promotes new lines of enquiry in their own research or opportunities to learn these tools in a new research environment. These interactions can also be facilitated by work with the Turing's in-house Research Software Engineering team and with the Tools, Practices and Systems programme activities.

b. An awareness of the ethical considerations of data science and AI. Considering the ethical implications of research is a core part of all the work at the Turing. We will encourage all award holders to continue to examine the ethical issues in their own projects and discuss them with others through informal discussions and participation in community projects such as The Turing Way, our open-source guide and gold-standard in developing reproducible data science projects.

2. Collaboration

a. An opportunity to collaborate with the Turing research community which includes diverse and outstanding researchers from across the UK to support the Turing in delivering world class research programmes. The opportunities for researchers to find and nurture relationships with collaborators that will contribute to their research. This includes building relationships with contacts in other disciplines that can lead to new applications for research. The Turing's diverse community provides an excellent starting point for collaborations that individual researchers can continue to develop and therefore strengthen the growth of the UK's postdoctoral community in data science and AI.

b. To grow the multidisciplinary fields applying data science and AI in the UK, as well as support and promote research that has a positive impact on society.

3. Develop research independence

We also aim that the community of researchers involved in the award scheme will support and encourage award holders to take the next step along their academic research pathways. Post-doctoral researchers have already established the professional skill set to pursue their own research questions and this award may facilitate opportunities that will lead to further independent work.

What does the PDEA offer?

The PDEA offers flexible funds to enable researchers to build on their current research and develop and grow activities related to the core aims of the scheme. The award also provides a connection to the Turing's community that will support those aims:

- £2,000 award for activity relating to the core aims for the scheme.
- Participation in the Turing's online community for researchers in data science and AI.
- Access to training and research showcase events for the Turing community.
- Opportunity to apply for additional funding for community building activities and projects.
- Opportunity to contribute to the Turing's growing activity in the national skills and research space.
- Funding can be used to support publication and computing costs for projects that contribute to the core goals of the scheme.

The PDEA does not support the following activities:
- Funding cannot be used to support salary costs or buy hardware.
- The award does not provide access to The Alan Turing Institute headquarters or a formal position within the Institute.

Eligibility

The Alan Turing Institute is built on a strong legacy of pioneering work in theoretical and applied mathematics, engineering, and computing, with increasingly diverse contributions from other academic disciplines, which help make data science a truly multi-disciplinary endeavour. We welcome applications from post-doctoral researchers who will embrace the opportunity to enrich their own research through the connection to the growing community of data science and AI researching in the UK. We encourage applications from a broad range of academic disciplines and backgrounds, especially those whose research spans multiple disciplines and applications and aligns with the Institute's research areas. These can include any aspects of AI and data science, from cybersecurity to digital humanities. Applicants should consider how they would best utilise the PDEA to support their current research and how they can contribute to our academic and broader community and engage with others. To support

greater diversity within data science and AI, we encourage applicants from underrepresented backgrounds to apply.

Applicants for the PDEA must:

- Be able to prove that the applicant will be in a funded post-doctoral position of at least 6 months total duration in March 2022 at a UK Higher Education Institution(HEI) or research institution.
- Applicants must ensure that their institution agrees to receive the funding to its institutional bank accounts and will not be top slice it to cover institutional overheads.
- Be in the position and able to receive the award funding before 31 March 2022.
- Account for the use of the awarded funds and complete the reporting process by the 1 October 2022.
- Consider themselves as unestablished in their research career. For more senior postdocs this may also mean they are building their career in a new direction in response to Data Science/AI innovations.
- Applicants must ensure they have permission from any grant holders currently providing project funding to apply for this award.
- Commit to reporting on the outcomes of the award in the form of an informal "blog post" and a formal summary of research progress at the end of the award.

Application

Applications must be made through the online application form. It requires a research summary (200 words) and the description of the proposed activity and how it will support the aims of the scheme (300 words).

Timeline

Opening date: 15 November 2021

Closing date: 14 December 2021

Decision outcomes: January 2022

Programme starts: March 2022

Completion date: October 2022