

Turing Network Development Awards

Frequently Asked Questions

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Introduction

This frequently asked questions (FAQs) document has been created to assist those considering an application and to support applicants with the completion of their application.

This document will be reviewed and updated throughout the call to provide clarity when additional questions are received. The date of the most recent update can be found at the top of page 1.

If you have any questions that cannot be answered by the Call Document or FAQs, or you experience difficulties with the Flexi-Grant system, please email academic-engagement@turing.ac.uk.

Eligibility

Who is eligible to apply for a Turing Network Development Award?

Eligibility criteria are set out in the Call Document on the [application page of the website](#).

Are there any institutional limits in place?

Only one application can be made per university.

Can I apply from a non-UK university?

This pilot call is only for universities based in the UK. Universities outside of the UK are not eligible to apply.

Are other research institutes / organisations eligible to apply?

This pilot call is only for universities based in the UK. Other organisations are not eligible to apply.

Is the Award transferable?

No. The Awards will be made to the successful universities.

Award Lead

What is the role of the Award Lead?

The role of the Award lead, including criteria for the role, is listed in the Call Document on the [application page of the website](#).

What time commitment is required by the Award Lead?

Whilst not compulsory, it is recommended the Award Lead commits a minimum of 0.1 FTE to the role for the duration of the Award. Their time can be included on the costing template.

Can there be more than one Award Lead?

No. However, the Award can be used to cover costs of other people at the university to support successful delivery of the Award. This includes an Award Co-Lead (no more than one, who must be a researcher or academic), and/or administrative or professional services support. Other researchers can be included in the team, but for the purposes of the Award they will be classified as administrative support and will not attract indirect costs.

Does the Award Lead need to submit the application?

No, the Award Lead does not need to submit the application. This should be done by the Proposal Lead, who can also be the Award Lead. Successful universities will be required to nominate an Award Lead by 31 January 2022 and inform the Institute. The Institute reserves the right to request an alternative Award Lead if it concludes that the nominated Award Lead does not meet the Award Lead criteria (as set out in the Call Document).

Timings

What are the timings of the Award?

Timings are set out in the Call Document on the [application page of the website](#).

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

This call is being run as a pilot. It will be evaluated and then considered alongside plans to support the Institute's future vision.

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

Yes. If applicants are unsuccessful, they can apply for future Institute funding calls, including Turing Network Development Awards if the call runs again. Applicants are encouraged to visit the Institute's [website](#) for further information on how to get involved.

Funding and resources

How many Awards are there?

Up to 20 Awards will be made.

How is the Award funded?

The Award will pay 100% of direct costs. Indirect costs will be paid at the rate of £32,500¹ per Award Lead or Award Co-Lead FTE, per annum. Indirect costs are not payable on any other expenditure. The budget template will calculate Indirect costs.

¹ This is the rate the Institute applies to funding eligible to receive indirect costs.

Do costings need to be signed off?

All costings need to be provided in the budget template. The Proposal Lead should work with their institution's finance team to complete the budget template. Details of the contact in the finance team should be included in the template as required.

How should the budget be submitted?

A budget template should be completed and submitted as part of the application.

What can the Award be used for?

The Award can be used flexibly for the purposes set out in the Call Document. Costs can include the following:

- Award Lead (max 1) or Co-Lead (max 1) salary contribution
- Professional services or administrative support, or support by other researchers
- Travel and subsistence
- Costs to run events and meetings (e.g. conferences, workshops)
- Other reasonable costs to deliver this Award may be considered; these should be detailed in the application. The Institute reserves the right to deem these costs not suitable and it is recommended that you contact academic-engagement@turing.ac.uk to discuss these in advance of submission.

The Award cannot be used for any capital expenditure.

How will the Award be paid?

The total Award amount will be paid at the beginning of the Award period, by a single payment on receipt of an invoice which must include the PO number provided by the Institute. If the value of the invoice is reduced by more than 5% of the budget provided at the point of application, we will need to see and approve a revised budget. Invoices for amounts more than the budget provided at the point of application will not be paid. Further information will be provided in the Award letter.

All applications will need to demonstrate how far the proposal maximises the impact and benefits achieved from the resources requested, and the likelihood that it will succeed in reaching its goals. Funding proposals must therefore be proportionate to the anticipated impact.

Application process

How do I apply?

Applicants should apply through the Institute's Flexi-Grant application portal accessible from the Turing Network Development Awards [call webpage](#). Prior to starting an application, applicants will be required to create a Flexi-Grant account if they do not have one already.

What are the assessment criteria?

Assessment criteria are set out in the Call Document on the [application page of the website](#).

How will my application be assessed?

Applications will be reviewed against the assessment criteria by a review panel comprising members of the Institute's leadership team.

Can I get feedback on my application?

Minimal feedback can be requested. The review panel's decision is final and cannot be appealed.

How will Equality, Diversity and Inclusion be monitored?

The Institute's mission is to make great leaps in data science and AI to change the world for the better, and we recognise that to make such great advancements and help solve the world's problems and challenges, we need to accurately reflect the world's diverse composition and build an inclusive community.

The application form asks applicants to demonstrate how Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) will be embedded across all activities described in the proposal. Universities in receipt of an Award will be expected to report against what they have set out in this section as part of the reporting process. Award Leads will have the option to complete a monitoring form at the point of induction. Both mechanisms will allow the Institute to report on its EDI aims.

Further information about the Institute's EDI strategy is [available here](#).

How is this Award different from other networking awards?

In addition to funding to support networking activities, the Turing Network Development Awards provide universities across the UK with access to the Institute and the potential to benefit from the wide range of opportunities on offer, including AI UK, which is detailed here as this information is not yet available on the website.

AI UK

Successful applicant universities will be offered a limited number of complimentary tickets to the Institute's flagship annual conference [AI UK](#). AI UK is a unique event, drawing on the Institute's extensive network to convene the AI ecosystem and showcase the latest developments in AI research, whilst encouraging collaboration and connections amongst academia, public sector organisations, industry and more.

Award recipients will have the opportunity to nominate a speaker or demonstrator to participate in the event programme, showcasing research and innovation alongside world-leading thinkers and pioneers. AI UK has established an engaged and informed national community, and we expect to welcome over 2,500 delegates to our 2022 showcase.

Post-Award

The standard terms and conditions for this category of funding are [available here](#). Given the nature of the award there will be variations that will be shared with successful applicants in the award letter in due course.

When can activity start?

Any proposed activity can start from 1 February 2022 subject to both parties having signed the appropriate agreement.

What reporting requirements are attached to the funding?

The university will be asked to complete a short report after 3 months of the Award, and a full Award report upon completion of the Award period and before 31 October 2022. This will include, but is not limited to, a finance report and output / progress against Award purpose.

Further details will be provided in the terms and conditions, and Award Leads will receive a copy of the report template as part of their induction.

The Award Lead will have the opportunity to meet with the Academic Engagement team from time to time, to discuss the Award and provide informal progress updates.

As listed in the Call Document, one 'Purpose of the Award' is for universities to:

Map the university's expertise / strengths in each of the Institute's priority areas and those considered of national strategic importance (in data science and AI) not yet covered by the Institute.

A template for collecting this information will be made available. Its use is optional.

Is there scope to make changes to the budget / proposed activities after the Award starts?

The Award will be made on the basis that it will be used for the 'Purpose of the Award' as set out in the Call Document, and may be used flexibly in line with eligible costs set out above (see 'What can the Award be used for?'). The Award can be vired between directly incurred and directly allocated costs on the basis that any changes compared to the original budget will be reported at 3 months and upon completion of the Award, and that all monies awarded are used for the Purpose of the Award.