

The Alan Turing Institute

Enrichment Scheme 2022-2023 Call



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Summary

The Enrichment scheme offers students currently enrolled on a doctoral programme at a UK university the opportunity to enrich their studies by building connections with The Alan Turing Institute and engaging with its diverse community of researchers. Students continue their doctorate with their current supervisor at their home university, while gaining opportunities to learn new methodologies, build new collaborations and develop research independence.

This document introduces the changes for the 2022 scheme and provides guidance for applicants and details of how to apply. After reading this document, we recommend you review our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document. Supervisors may wish to review the [Guidance for Supervisors](#).

Changes for 2022 Enrichment

As the Enrichment scheme enters its 7th year, and in recognition of changes to ways of working in the last few years, the Turing are pleased to announce that for the 2022-23 academic year we will offer two awards: the Enrichment Community Award and the Enrichment Placement Award.

Enrichment Community Award

The Turing aims to grow a UK wide community of doctoral students and early career researchers with shared interests in data science and AI. The Community Award will provide access to the **Turing's online community and resources**, as well as a **flexible grant to undertake research activity**.

Up to 50 awards of £1500 will be offered that will become active in October 2022. The funding will need to be used before 30th September 2023, but Enrichment Community Award holders will retain access to the Turing online community for the duration of their doctoral studies (subject to terms and conditions).

Enrichment Placement Award

The Placement Award offers candidates the opportunity to undertake a **6- or 9-month placement at the Turing HQ in London**. This award carries an expectation that holders will engage in person at the office for a minimum of 3 days/week (subject to the office being open and government health guidelines). All Placement Award holders will join our online network and will automatically receive a Community Award.

Up to 40 awards will be offered and will become active in **October 2022 or January 2023 at the candidate's choice**. The award will provide a stipend uplift of £450 per month to facilitate relocating or commuting to the Turing HQ. In addition, Placement Award holders will also be offered an Enrichment Community Award of £1500 as described above.

This new offering for the 2022 scheme aims to give applicants the freedom to choose the type of engagement that suits them best and the flexibility to participate either in person or remotely. We intend to continue to offer both awards in future years, and candidates with a Community Award will be able to apply for a Placement Award in subsequent years.

The 2022-23 Enrichment Scheme

The Enrichment scheme has been designed to give students the opportunity to enhance, refresh, and broaden their research with the Turing's community and in recognition of their place within the UK's growing data science and AI research community. Whereas Placement Award holders receive funding to physically access the Institute's facilities the Community Award is intended to support holders in building both online communities and facilitating other activities such as attending training courses, going to conferences, visiting collaborators or publishing additional papers.

Both types of award should support and enhance the current work towards the thesis and be supported by the student's supervisor. Students usually begin their engagement with 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

Aims and Objectives

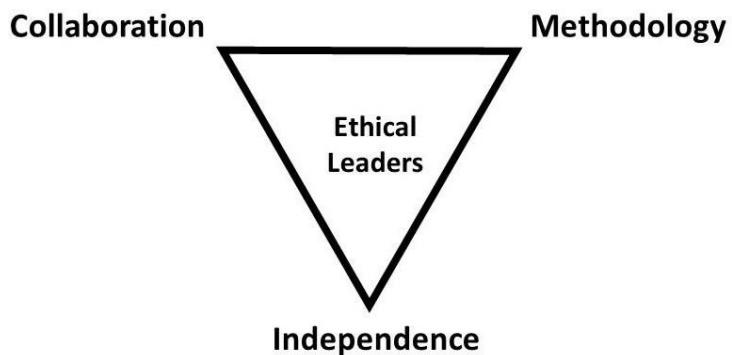
The new structure of the Enrichment scheme for 2022 will allow us to:

- 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.
- Grow the Data Science and AI fields in the UK more widely and support and promote research that has a positive impact on society.

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's community of researchers and to discover new methods and new applications for their research.
 - c. An opportunity to develop collaborative opportunities with others in the Turing's research community.
2. An opportunity to develop increased research independence and identity.
3. A space to explore and raise awareness of the ethical considerations of data science and AI.

We see these aims and objectives as being connected with one another while giving individual applicants the opportunity to identify personal goals from the scheme.



Collaborate and network

Enrichment students have the opportunity to find new collaborators for their research project, or to start a collaboration on something related to their field. Enrichment Awards allow students to join a cohort from across the UK, as well as the range of researchers already active at the Turing. Collaboration and networking are encouraged at the Institute through interest groups, seminars, events and workshops and engagement with the Turing's research programmes. The Community Award can be used flexibly to enable connection including supporting visits to collaborators.

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 and will have access to academic mentors while at the Turing. The Community Award can also be used to fund attendance at additional external training events.

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. The Community Award can be used to fund attendance at conferences including those outside of your primary discipline.

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 Research 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. The Community Award can be used to support student led activities to explore ethical issues or to attend additional training or learning events.

Award

Two awards are offered based on the type of engagement chosen by the applicant.

The Enrichment **Community Award** consists of a one off £1500 award for a 12-month remote participation in the scheme. This award can be used flexibly by the student to enrich and support their doctoral studies. Students will be required to report on how their Community Award has been utilised at the end of the scheme. Please see the FAQ for more details of what each Award provides. Award holders will also remain members of the Turing's online community until the end of their doctoral studies (subject to terms and conditions).

The Enrichment **Placement Award** consists of a financial award of £1500 to enrich and support their doctoral studies and a £450/month financial award for in person placements of 6 or 9 months. This award supports additional costs students will incur in order to attend the Institute or another location in person during their placement. Placement students will also be eligible for the loan of a Turing research laptop. Placement Award holders will be required to report on how they have utilised their £1500 research grant at the end of their placement.

The primary location for Placement Awards will be the Institute HQ in London. However, it will be possible for placements to be undertaken (in whole or part) at two of the Turing's university partners: The Jean Golding Institute at the University of Bristol or the Leeds Institute for Data Analytics at the University of Leeds. Students can choose to spend part of their in-person placement at one of these Enrichment Centres if engaging with the local community of researchers would further benefit their doctoral studies. Please see the FAQs for more information.

In addition to this award, there is an Access Fund available for applicants to either award with caring responsibilities, disabilities or in need of extra support to participate in the scheme. Candidates can apply for the fund when completing the application form for the scheme.

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 participate in the scheme.
- Students must be in the “**active research phase**” which is defined as:
 - having completed their first year of doctoral study (not including any masters or foundation years)
 - 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**.
- Enrichment Placement Award students must satisfactorily pass the Institute’s security screening process which includes a basic Disclosure and Barring Service check.

Assessment Criteria

When assessing applicants for either Award, 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 with the Turing community.

Area	Community Award	Placement Award
Research proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The research proposal is technically sound, clearly communicated, demonstrates a good understanding of the topic and an original contribution to the field.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The research proposal engages with data science/AI methodologies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The research proposal engages with the research challenges of the Turing or data science/AI methodologies.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The applicant clearly identifies areas of their research for development and how this could be achieved through an Enrichment Placement.

Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of skills in data science and/or AI and technical skills (e.g. mathematics, statistics, programming, algorithms, data analytics, applications) used to solve research problems
Behaviours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A collaborative approach that enhances the engagement and exchange with other researchers and an understanding of the added value that communicating and networking with others can bring to their research Demonstrates a clear and convincing plan for how participation would contribute to their doctoral study and development as a researcher and ideas on how to utilise the award and Turing resources to enrich their research

Application process

Timeline

Application stage	Key Dates
Applications open	13 January 2022
Applications close	23 February 2022
Application review period	23 February – 16 May 2022
Outcomes communicated	After 16 May 2022

How to Apply

Applicants 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.

Applicants apply directly to the Turing through our [Flexigrant application system](#). The application form will ask you to choose which award you wish to apply 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 in line with the assessment criteria.

You will also need to submit your supervisor's details (who will be invited to submit a reference through the system).

The deadline for applications is **23 February 2022, 12pm (noon) GMT**.

Assessment Process

All applicants are assessed on their application form and reference only. Applicants will not be invited to interviews for the Enrichment scheme.

Applications will first be checked for eligibility. All eligible applications will then be reviewed under the supervision of the Turing Skills Group with successful applications receiving a review from an academic in a closely aligned discipline.

A final panel will then decide awards based on the strength of applications and, if oversubscribed, the diversity of an applicant's research area. For this reason, we suggest candidates carefully select which areas of research their application relates to. The Turing reserves the right to reject applicants who do not meet the criteria at any stage.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

The Alan Turing Institute has a mission to make great leaps in data science and artificial intelligence to change the world for the better and recognises 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.

We are taking seriously questions of diversity, equity and inclusion as impact and importance to success and excellence in our field, community and mission. We are committed to actively working to embed and ensure our functions and research schemes are accessible, inclusive, and diverse. Applicants can be of any nationality and applicants from under-represented groups are encouraged to apply. We welcome applicants from all universities, and those 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).

Reasonable Adjustments

We recognise that there may be individual circumstances that we need to be aware of and will make reasonable adjustments required to support individuals during the assessment process any placement. 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](#).

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 3578. There is also a section on the application form where applicants may make us aware of individual circumstances.

If there is information relevant to your application that we may need to consider when facilitating the review of your application, please contact us to discuss. Where possible, this should be done early in the process or updated when circumstances change.

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. Information will only be used to arrange reasonable adjustments and will not be used to assess your application.

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, a caring responsibility or financial hardship. 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 like to discuss your application, please do contact us at academic-recruitment@turing.ac.uk or on +44 (0) 20 3862 3578.

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 3578.