

A network diagram with nodes and connecting lines, overlaid on a blue diagonal shape that covers the left and bottom portions of the page.

**The  
Alan Turing  
Institute**

# **2022 Enrichment Scheme FAQs**

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## Eligibility

### **Can I apply if I am in my first year of my PhD?**

You may apply during your first year of your doctoral research, as long as you do not intend to start your Enrichment scheme until your second year. If you are applying for the Enrichment Placement Award and you are in your first year of your doctoral programme, we encourage you to consider the benefits of a January start, to allow for adequate time to complete any transfer or conversion requirements at your home university.

If your first year of doctoral studies is a training / rotation project year, then you will need to wait until you have completed one year of research on your main doctoral project by the time you start your placement.

### **Are there nationality or other eligibility restrictions?**

There are no nationality restrictions. However, applicants must be able to remain and study legally in the UK for the duration of the programme. It will be the student's responsibility to get approval from their university to study away if successful, which may involve informing your international office if you are on a Student Visa.

The Enrichment scheme is only currently open to students registered at a UK university. If you are currently studying remotely and enrolled at a UK university but do not have the right to study in the UK, please contact us for further advice.

### **Who are we looking for?**

Candidates will be reviewed against the assessment criteria which are listed in the Call Document. There is no "typical" Turing student, and Enrichment scheme offers opportunities to students from a broad range of disciplines.

We expect our students to embrace the opportunity to enrich their research and broaden their learning through their award in line with the aims and objectives of the scheme.

Applicants should have access to, or be in the process of securing access to the data needed for their research project as participation in the Enrichment scheme will not provide access to any new data sets for participants.

Students must be willing to be based at the Institute headquarters in London if they apply for the Enrichment Placement Award (subject to government health restrictions and the office being open, please see below for more details). A remote engagement is required for the Enrichment Community Award.

## Application Guidance

### **Which award should I apply for and can I apply for both?**

Your choice of award should be based on the type of engagement and arrangements that you think are suitable and beneficial for you and your research. All successful applicants will have access to the online community and receive a Community Award, so you should consider whether an Enrichment Placement at the Institute HQ would suit your needs.

If you wish to relocate or commute to London (for at least 3 days per week) and work on your research in person at the office for 6 or 9 months, the Placement Award is right for you. If you prefer a more flexible arrangement that does not require a relocation or commuting but offers the opportunity to collaborate with the other students and Turing researchers remotely for a full year, then applying only for the Community Award is for you.

On the application form you are able to indicate which Award you are interested in and there is an option to express interest in either. If you apply for the Community Award initially and are successful, you can reapply for the Placement Award in subsequent years for the opportunity to engage in person. However, please keep in mind that for both awards we require candidates to be in the active research phase of their doctoral programmes.

### **How do I choose the length of placement and my start date for the Enrichment Placement Award?**

The Turing recommends you discuss your choice of start date (October 2022 or January 2023) and length of placement (6 or 9 months) with your supervisor. It is suggested that you time your placement to compliment the length of your research project. For some students this may mean an Enrichment placement early on in their research to develop new techniques, while others may wait until their project is well defined before making use of the resources available. We encourage applicants to consider the benefits of a January start, particularly for those students who will have just completed their first year. If you choose to start your placement in January 2023, you will be able to engage online with the community, participate in early community building and other online activities from October 2022 in line with your Community Award.

### **Is London the only location available on the Enrichment Placement Award?**

Students applying for the Placement Award are offered the option to be based not only at the Turing HQ in London, but also at 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 their in-person placement (or part of it) at one of these Enrichment Centres if engaging with the local community of researchers would further benefit their doctoral studies. In the application form students will have the option to select one of the additional locations and will be asked to explain why a temporary relocation to the chosen Centre would benefit their research.

### **Do you offer any guidance on how to write the application?**

During the application period the Turing will offer applicants the opportunity to take part in an online workshop in which we will provide advice on writing a strong application. We wish to guide applicants on what to highlight in their Enrichment applications and also give them some tools to improve their grant writing skills for the future.

The registration for the online workshop will open on the **10<sup>th</sup> of January 2022**. Please visit the [Enrichment scheme page on the website](#) to sign up. The workshop will take place on the **25<sup>th</sup> of January 2022**.

### **How can I request reasonable adjustments to the application process?**

The Alan Turing Institute is committed to creating an environment where diversity is valued, and everyone is treated fairly. We encourage candidates 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.

We will treat any information you disclose to us as sensitive and will handle it in line with the Data Protection Act 2018. Information will only be used to arrange reasonable adjustments and will not be used to assess your application.

To discuss an adjustment to the application process, please contact our team directly at [academic-recruitment@turing.ac.uk](mailto:academic-recruitment@turing.ac.uk) or on +44 (0) 20 3862 3578.

### **What areas of data science are relevant for the Enrichment scheme?**

The best place to find out about the kind of research being undertaken at the Institute is on our [website](#). Students who are significantly engaged in any of the research themes and areas listed on our website are invited to apply, particularly those candidates whose work covers multiple disciplines. All research projects are expected to have a strong data science and/or AI component. In addition to a research link to The Alan Turing Institute, students should be prepared to engage with a multi-disciplinary cohort and collaborate across fields. Please see [“Who are we looking for?”](#) for more details.

## **Do I need to supply a reference?**

As part of your application, you will be required to supply one reference. This reference should come from your primary supervisor. If your primary supervisor is not available to provide a reference, please get in touch with us to discuss other options. Through the application form you will invite your supervisor to complete a reference form online in the application system. On the form your supervisor will be asked to answer questions about your academic ability, suitability to the Enrichment scheme and agree to you participating. **You will be unable to submit your application until the reference is complete.**

Please note that all supervisors are asked to commit to continuing supervision whilst students are on the scheme and no formal supervision is provided by the Turing to Enrichment students. We recommend you inform your supervisor in advance that they will be asked to register and submit a reference in order for you to submit your application. If either of your supervisor is unable to use the Flexigrant system, please email [academic-recruitment@turing.ac.uk](mailto:academic-recruitment@turing.ac.uk) for alternative arrangements.

## **Should I inform my department before applying?**

Yes, you must inform your department to gain their permission before you apply. We strongly recommend students send their Head of Department, main administrative contact or other suitable individual the [Guidance Note for Universities](#) ahead of applying.

If you are successful on being selected for the scheme, we will ask your university to administer the financial award you will receive. Please be aware that in some cases you may need permission from any existing funders to receive additional awards and grant conditions may vary. We recommend checking with your existing funders before applying. If you have questions, please contact [academic-recruitment@turing.ac.uk](mailto:academic-recruitment@turing.ac.uk).

If you are selected for a Placement Award, we will also ask for formal permission from your university to study away.

## **What if my supervisor has questions?**

We recommend supervisors review the [Guidance for Supervisors](#). Supervisors can contact [academic-recruitment@turing.ac.uk](mailto:academic-recruitment@turing.ac.uk) or call +44 (0) 20 3862 3578 with any questions.

## **Can I request feedback on my application if I am unsuccessful?**

Candidates may request feedback. Please note that feedback will only be available to unsuccessful candidates for up to 6 months after their application.

## **Can I reapply if I have been unsuccessful previously?**

If you were unsuccessful in a previous application, you may reapply. If you received a Community Award you may also reapply for a Placement Award in a subsequent year. If you have received a Placement Award, you will not be eligible for further Enrichment scheme funding at the postgraduate level. You may be interested in looking into other opportunities offered by the Institute such as our [Data Study Groups](#) and the Turing [Internship Network](#).

## **What to expect from the Enrichment Scheme**

### **Can I undertake the Enrichment scheme if I am doing a part-time PhD?**

Yes, it is possible to participate in the Enrichment scheme if you are doing a part-time PhD. The minimum expectation for a Placement Award is 3 days a week in person engagement at the Turing offices. There is no minimum weekly engagement for the community Award.

The Turing are committed to supporting individuals to engage with Enrichment and so if you would like to discuss an adjustment to the scheme based on your individual circumstances please do contact the team on [academic-recruitment@turing.ac.uk](mailto:academic-recruitment@turing.ac.uk) or on +44 203 862 3578.

You should be in an active research stage of your project during the Enrichment scheme. For a full time PhD this is defined as after the first year of research. For a part-time PhD student this may be further along the doctoral timeframe.

### **What can I use the Enrichment Community Award for?**

The Enrichment Community Award is a fund that is intended to enrich and support the student's doctoral studies in line with the aims and objectives of the scheme. This fund can be used flexibly to cover the following examples:

- Training activities both internal and external including course fees and accommodation and subsistence costs
- Expenses for visits to the Turing or to meet collaborators
- Attendance at conferences including conference fees and accommodation and subsistence costs.
- Additional research costs including computing resource, publication costs and public engagement activities.

Your application should outline how you intend to use the award, which we recommend is aligned with the aims and objectives.

In addition to the Community Award, students attending a Placement Award receive

a financial award that is provided to cover the relocation costs or commuting and living costs.

### **Can Enrichment Community Award students go to the office?**

Community Award students will not be provided with an access pass to the Institute headquarters in London but will be able to visit as a guest during core office hours and for Enrichment activities.

### **Will the Turing organise visits to collaborators and partners on behalf of Community Award students?**

Community Award students should self-organize any visits to collaborators and partners they wish to go to and use the financial award received to cover the related costs. The Turing is not responsible for bookings and other travel arrangements.

What facilities and benefits are offered as part of the two Enrichment Awards?

Among the research benefits of the Enrichment scheme are:

- Membership of the Turing's online communities, including Slack access and invitations to internal Turing community events.
- Opportunities to collaborate with students and researchers working in other domains, including in Turing Interest Groups
- A collaborative online space with no disciplinary boundaries
- Access to internal training schemes and activities
- Opportunity to apply for Microsoft Azure cloud credits and other research resources and support.
- Networking opportunities and chances to build presentation and communication skills

Enrichment Placement Award students will also be provided with:

- The offer of a laptop for the duration of their placement. We currently offer either Mac or Windows research laptop options
- Turing email account
- Turing Access pass to the physical space to encourage collaborative work

### **What are examples of collaborative opportunities offered by the Turing?**

An example of opportunities offered to students during the 2021 Enrichment scheme can be found below:

- Research collaborations – Turing researchers or Enrichment students can propose projects that are open for collaboration and within the research interests of both
- Data Study Groups – two-week hackathons where Enrichment students can take part to work on a challenge proposed by a business partner

- Interest Groups – Enrichment students can become active members of more than 35 Interest Groups where researchers, students and practitioners discuss in depth focused areas of research

While some opportunities are usually centrally offered, we encourage students to be proactive in reaching out to the community and seek or create projects to work on.

## What training is available?

The Skills Team coordinate a large number of training activities throughout the year for the Turing and wider research community. These include our flagship courses in Research Software Engineering, and Reproducibility, Ethics and Open research, as well as opportunities to take online courses developed together with our research collaborators, and access technical training in specific data science and AI topics.

Many of the training activities will be adapted for online delivery to enable us to both maintain continuity and to include as many researchers as possible.

In order to contribute to the collaborative nature of the Turing, students are also encouraged to self-organise talks and tutorials within the student body to build links within the cohort and learn from their peers. A Grassroots Training fund is available for students who would like to organise training-related activities, alongside support from the Skills team. Students can also choose to present their research to the wider Turing community through (virtual) posters and technical talks at invited meetings.

The following are examples of training and mentorship opportunities that were available during previous Enrichment schemes. Please note that these opportunities are updated and vary every year and we cannot guarantee that the following ones will be on offer for the 2022-23 call.

- **Doctoral Days** – networking and cohort-building days focused on discussing matters around your doctoral studies

- **Live Synchronous Courses** – 5–10-day intensive workshops focused on specific subject matters aimed to upskill those of you who already present an interest in the topic

*(Research Software Engineering with Python, Research Data Science, Responsible Research Innovation, AI Ethics and Governance etc)*

- **Self-paced Online Courses** – flagship courses developed and delivered by the Turing research community (examples above) are available for students to take in their own time

- **Peer-mentoring programmes** – Enrichment students are invited to take part in 4-16 weeklong programmes focused on specific areas (e.g., Open research) to discuss with peers and Postdoctoral researchers how they would implement the learnings in their own research

- **Seminars / Workshops** – half a day to two days, both introductory and advanced level workshops on a wide variety of topics, aimed to expand your knowledge horizons and your skillset  
(*Collaboration in a distributed world, Deep Learning: Working with Convolutional Neural Networks, Bayesian Statistics*)
- **Weekly Academic Mentorship Scheme** – weekly opportunity to speak to a senior academic, outside of your supervisors, who can listen impartially and offer advice on academic matters
- **Research Software Engineering Drop-in sessions** – scheduled, regular sessions that aim to provide one-to-one support with specific technical issues

### **How will my progress be monitored?**

Enrichment students must conform to their home university's assessment and engagement requirements.

Students will be asked to complete a review questionnaire usually within the first term. Some students may be asked to present their work at meetings or events on a voluntary basis.

All students will be required to provide a final report detailing the outcomes of their time on the scheme and how they have used their Award to enrich their research.

You should continue to meet with and regularly update your supervisor throughout your participation in Enrichment and should continue to complete any progression requirements from your home university.

### **What support is available to Enrichment students?**

We have dedicated student services support at the Turing to provide help and advice throughout your time with us. In addition to this, you will be able to access all services offered by your home university as well as the Institute's External Supervisor, who offers support on dealing with challenging situations.

For research advice we currently provide academic mentors to our cohorts of students. As part of the Enrichment scheme, you will join the community of students and researchers based in our London headquarters and be able to access peer support, advice and guidance through your time in our office.

### **How frequently do students receive the Enrichment Award?**

The Enrichment Award is paid by the Turing to your home university, who then administer it to the student. The timings of award payments are therefore set by the home university, however the Turing suggests payments are made in line with existing stipend payments for the placement award.

## **What is the Access Fund and who is it for?**

The Access Fund provides financial support to students to participate who otherwise would not be able to due to a disability, additional need, a caring responsibility or other financial hardship.

The fund provides awards of up to £500 per month and applications will be assessed separately to the main call.

The fund is expected to support the following costs:

- Additional housing costs (e.g. specific location or access requirements)
- Additional childcare or other caring costs (e.g. beyond what the student would ordinarily incur)
- Additional support costs
- Loss of earnings through participation in the scheme that will result in financial hardship

The fund is not intended to provide support for students who do not meet the criteria above with the costs of moving to London and does not replace the financial award offered as standard to students applying for a Placement Award. This fund is available for both Placement and Community award holders

## **How do I apply for the Access Fund?**

You can apply for the Access Fund through the Flexigrant form. The information you share will not be visible to reviewers and will be assessed separately to your research application.

As part of the application, you will be asked to briefly outline the additional expenses you would incur by taking part in the Enrichment scheme and the reason for this.

We may need to follow up your application with a phone call to find out more details. This will not contribute to an assessment of your overall Enrichment application.

## **How can I find out more about the Enrichment Scheme?**

We are running two information sessions during the application period.

### **Enrichment Information Webinar 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022 12.30-1.30pm**

This session will provide an overview of the scheme and give you a chance to hear from current or former students.

### **Enrichment Application Workshop 25<sup>th</sup> January 12.30-1.30pm**

This session will support students in writing a strong application. We will hear from previous students and reviewers and look at top tips or your application.

Both sessions will be hosted on zoom and you can register for a free place by following this link: [https://turing-uk.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_J6Hr1u2KSTmv8SHCompK9w](https://turing-uk.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_J6Hr1u2KSTmv8SHCompK9w)  
Both sessions will be recorded and posted on the website within a week of taking place.

## Covid-19 and the Enrichment Scheme

### **What measures are being taken to ensure the scheme is Covid-secure?**

The Institute will continue to monitor and follow government guidelines and prioritise the health of our community.

Online training activities and opportunities to build community will be available in case an in-person delivery is not viable. The Institute will be closely monitoring the current situation and will ensure to promptly communicate offer holders any changes in the delivery of the scheme.