

**Section 1.10**

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# Skills and training

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Training new generations of data science and AI leaders is one of the Turing's three goals. We do this through the delivery of exciting programmes and courses, often in partnership with other experts in the field.

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## Our evolving Enrichment scheme

Our [Enrichment scheme](#) placements returned to an in-person format this year, providing opportunities, support and training for 76 PhD students from 22 academic institutions. We expanded the scheme to offer placements at the University of Bristol's Jean Golding Institute and the Leeds Institute for Data Analytics, as well as the Turing offices in London.

Recognising the value of remote training and networking, we have also spent this year developing a new Enrichment Community Award, which will be rolled out for the 2022-23 scheme. This virtual option will provide access to the Turing's growing online community, as well as small grants to enrich students' research through activities including collaborative visits and conference presentations.

This year, we also piloted a [Post-Doctoral Enrichment Award](#) scheme to allow ongoing online engagement among post-doctoral researchers with the Turing's community. In the first round, we offered 73 awards (which include a small grant) to researchers across 29 different institutions.

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## Turing Internship Network and Data Study Groups: a new chapter

Our [Turing Internship Network](#) (TIN) and [Data Study Groups](#) (DSGs) this year came together to launch a [pilot programme](#) to support charities and NGOs working in environment and sustainability. We are helping to place PhD data science researchers within partner organisations to work on their data challenges over a six-month period.

Successful interns will also help to prepare a DSG, which will be held towards the end of the internship. This will see a team of data scientists further exploring the partner organisation's challenges and coming up with a range of potential solutions or routes for further investigation.



We began a new initiative to place interns in charities and NGOs working in environment and sustainability

This pilot will allow us to use the TIN to better prepare data challenges coming through the DSG pipeline, helping us to understand how these two skills-sharing programmes can be leveraged together for a greater impact.

Ten environmental organisations have now been selected for the pilot, covering areas including biodiversity, pollution monitoring and wildlife protection. The internships will begin in autumn 2022.

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### **Online learning and training**

At the Turing, we offer a range of online courses to people from around the world. Following a competitive application process, over 300 learners this year took part in six online training opportunities, including our flagship courses in **research software engineering** and **research data science**.

The pandemic has helped us to open up our training resources to anyone with the right prerequisite knowledge, providing us with a great platform to start building an international and diverse learner community.

We have also launched activity to promote better teaching practice in data science and AI, including a **'data science education' interest group** which has rapidly grown to over 250 members. And we are currently running the inaugural **data science and AI educators' programme**, which will allow us to share our developing expertise across the UK and beyond, and enable experts to better teach these essential topics.

Also this year, we created **Turing Commons** – an online platform with educational courses, tools and other resources designed to help researchers from a wide variety of backgrounds reflect on and discuss the social impacts of data science and AI. The first two courses – **'responsible research and innovation'** and **'public engagement of data science and AI'** – are now online. Additional courses and resources are scheduled for 2022, alongside plans to engage new partners and groups.

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### **National skills leadership**

As a national institute, we are increasingly called upon to offer leadership in developing data science and AI skills. We have continued to work with the **Alliance for Data Science Professionals** to define the first set of professional standards for data science. This is a key step in helping to define and address the data skills gap that exists in the UK.

We have also been working with DCMS on the development of a Data Skills Indicator – a methodology for data science and AI labour market analysis that will be used by the **National Data Strategy** team for longitudinal evaluation of the UK skills landscape.

Finally, we hosted a ministerial launch for the Data Skills Taskforce's **Data Skills Portal** in November 2021, attended by Julia Lopez, Minister for Media, Data and Digital Infrastructure. The portal was developed with support from the UK government, and it provides a self-assessment tool to help businesses understand their organisational and technical readiness with respect to data. It is now used by more than 700 businesses per month.