

Predictive Modelling projects in the context of uncertainty and heterogeneity in biomedical data

FAQs

1. What effects will be seconded to the Turing have on my pension and other benefits at my university?

There shouldn't be any implications. The individual will carry on paying into their pension via their University, and the Turing simply **reimburses the costs to the University** along with salary and NI (all pro-rata). We advise you to please discuss this further with your employer.

2. Does secondment mean I'm not working full time for my university?

You will **remain employed by your university** at the FTE in your employment contract.

3. Can I be seconded part time e.g 20% of my time?

Yes, that's fine. If you are applying as part of a collaborative team then you can also have different team members seconded different amounts e.g the PI seconded for 20% of time, the postdoc 50% etc.

4. I'm working in a collaborative team and it is a lot of admin to submit head of department approval and finance approval letters from everyone. Will one suffice?

We don't want admin to be a blocker for applications. For that, **one letter** from the **research/finance office of each university involved in the grant** confirming the research/finance office and, if applicable, the Head of Department, **agree with the terms** will be sufficient. A template of the submission approval letter can be found in the [open call web page](#) and will be available to download as well within the application portal. We encourage applicants and their research/finance offices **to use the provided template**.

5. If we are working in a collaborative project across universities, will the lead university receive the funding or will it be sent to both?

As individuals will be seconded from their university to The Alan Turing Institute, all payments will be made **directly to the university for which the seconded is employed by**.

6. There is reference to a costing template, where and what is this? Why can't we use our own template?

The costing template will be available to download in the application portal under the '**Proposed Budget**' section. To ensure we are able to provide a fair, transparent and prompt review of all proposals we require **every applicant to use the same template** to present their costs.

7. I'm struggling to calculate the overhead cost and include this in the costing template.

The costing template **already includes Turing overhead** rates which are hard coded, the total of which appears in column J. You therefore **don't need** to add the Turing overhead rate costs.

8. You said you're looking for Open Science- how will this work with sensitive data?

We'll be aiming to work '**as open as possible, as closed as necessary**'. The Turing-Roche partnership has committed to publishing methodology and algorithms openly; however we recognise there are limitations when it comes to the security and privacy of patient data and will ensure we handle those examples sensitively.

9. My collaborators are struggling to get their departmental approvals and I'm not sure this will happen by the closing date- what shall I do?

We suggest you **submit anyway** as we're keen to receive all applications. If some collaborators are unable to continue yet your sole project is shortlisted, we will endeavour to find a solution to proceed.

10. Will I be able to use Roche Data?

If it fits with your research proposal then there may be the possibility for Roche to provide access to the [FlatIron Health's ClinicoGenomic DataBase \(CGDB\)](#). If you think this may be an option, please **discuss it on the questions of the application referring to *Data readiness*** and Roche will explore how this might work and fit in with your proposal.

However, we encourage you to consider multiple data sources for developing and validating models, **including open access data sources**.

Please note that for the data source(s) you are planning to use, you **may need legal and/or ethical approvals**. Should your application be successful you may need to provide a copy of relevant ethical documentation (e.g. Institutional Review Board approval), and answer questions about data consent, privacy and security issues.

11. Is this funding call methodology or application focused?

The focus of the partnership is around developing methodology which ideally can be used in a variety of scenarios. We want this methodology to be developed **with applications in mind** and a powerful way of demonstrating the value of a newly demonstrated methodology is in applying it to a **real dataset**.

We are also committed to open science and want the outcomes of this research to be made **available to the wider community**. If the application is going to be sensitive for either commercial or other reasons, this may be limiting and so a less sensitive application may allow for wider dissemination.

We would not be funding what we would consider a pure application project such as applying an existing or standard technique to a new database to uncover new insights within that data.

12. Will planning for future work i.e plans to apply for another grant after this one to develop software, be seen as a downside?

Not at all, it would be great to **hear the downstream ideas for your projects** and we are happy for you to continue work as long as the methodology has been developed during this project.

13. If we would like to utilise the Turing Research Engineering Group (REG) members for our project do we need to cost that in?

We're keen for you to utilise the resources available as the Turing-Roche partnership. Resource such as the Turing REG team time **doesn't need to be costed in** as it's a Turing internal resource, however they are a **busy team** and we'd need details of what you need from them so this can be scheduled 6+ months in advance with them.