Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs): Turing University Network

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Contents

Introduction ........................................................................................................................................ 3

The Institute ..................................................................................................................................... 3

Where can I find general information about the Institute? .......................................................... 3
What are the Institute’s goals? ........................................................................................................ 3

Eligibility ........................................................................................................................................ 3

Who is eligible to join the Turing University Network at this time? ....................................... 3
Is there a fee to join the Turing University Network? ............................................................... 3

Application process ..................................................................................................................... 3

What should be included in the letter from the university stating institutional support for the application? .......................................................................................................................... 3
Can we apply as a local consortium of universities? ................................................................. 3
How often will the Institute run calls to join the Turing University Network? ....................... 4

Turing liaison ................................................................................................................................ 4

Can the university provide the name of the Turing liaison at a later date? .............................. 4
Can the university appoint an academic member of staff to the Turing liaison role? .......... 4
Is Turing liaison a formal Turing title? ........................................................................................ 4
What regular communications will the Turing liaison receive? .............................................. 4
What Turing platforms can Turing liaisons access? .................................................................. 4
Can Turing liaisons visit the Institute? ....................................................................................... 4
What meetings will Turing liaisons be required to attend? ..................................................... 5

Benefits ......................................................................................................................................... 5

What are the benefits of joining the network? .......................................................................... 5
How can the Turing’s brand be used by members of the network? ......................................... 5

Miscellaneous ............................................................................................................................... 5

Will there be a break clause should my university wish to leave the Turing University Network? ... 5
Introduction
This Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document has been created to assist those wishing to join the Turing University Network.

If you have any questions that cannot be answered by the Call Document or these FAQs, please email academic-engagement@turing.ac.uk.

The Institute
Where can I find general information about the Institute?
A broad range of information about the Institute can be found on our website. If you are new to working with the Turing, our About us page is a good place to start, along with our most recent Annual Report.

What are the Institute’s goals?
The Institute has three main goals, to:
• Advance world-class research and apply it to national and global challenges;
• Build skills for the future; and
• Drive an informed public conversation.
Details of our goals, principles and strategic approach can be found in our recently published strategy.

Eligibility
Who is eligible to join the Turing University Network at this time?
This opportunity is open to all UK universities who meet the eligibility criteria and requirements outlined in the Call Document.

Is there a fee to join the Turing University Network?
There is no fee charged by the Institute to join the Turing University Network. Membership of the network does not guarantee research funding for the university which is a contributing factor to why no membership fee is charged.

Application process
What should be included in the letter from the university stating institutional support for the application?
Applications must include a letter confirming institutional support from the Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research) or equivalent, a data science and/or AI institute/centre lead, or a suitable senior university representative. This does not need to be lengthy. This requirement is to ensure i.) the university’s senior leadership are aware an application is being made on behalf of the university and ii.) that one application is submitted per university.

Can we apply as a local consortium of universities?
Universities can apply as a consortium if they wish. One university would be the lead for administrative purposes, would host the Turing liaison, would coordinate all local activity and would
be recognised on the Institute’s website. Only the lead university will sign an Operational Alliance Memorandum with the Turing.

How often will the Institute run calls to join the Turing University Network?
The Institute will run regular calls for new universities to join the network. The regularity of these is to be confirmed but potentially every 6-12 months.

Turing liaison
Can the university provide the name of the Turing liaison at a later date?
Please provide the name of the Turing liaison that we should contact for the first few months of membership. Should the university wish to change their Turing liaison at a later date, the Institute can support this. The university can provide the name of a Turing liaison (academic) after the application has been submitted if they wish.

Can the university appoint an academic member of staff to the Turing liaison role?
Academics can become the Turing liaison (academic) but the Turing liaison should be based in university professional services. This role will include administrative tasks and a level of coordination best suited to professional services staff.

Is Turing liaison a formal Turing title?
No, this is an identifier at the Institute and not a formal title. Universities may wish to provide a title to this role as an identifier to university academics and staff (e.g. Turing University Liaison, or Turing Liaison Manager). Turing titles are given following an open call or formal recruitment process only.

What regular communications will the Turing liaison receive?
All Institute updates will be consolidated by the Academic Engagement team into a weekly digest, circulated on the same day each week. This will include updates, opportunities, events (Turing and those from across the network) and funding calls. There will also be occasional bespoke emails to the network list when launching large calls (e.g Turing Fellowships, Turing PhD enrichment scheme). The Turing liaison can also sign up to various newsletters listed in the application form.

What Turing platforms can Turing liaisons access?
Turing liaisons will have access to a bespoke SharePoint area containing useful resources and the Turing University Network Slack channel (both accessed using their university email address).

Can Turing liaisons visit the Institute?
The Institute wants to foster a thriving research environment where possible. Turing liaisons will be encouraged to come to the Institute for meetings with each other and Turing staff. They will not receive an access pass but can, with appropriate notice, easily be registered as a visitor either by the staff member they are meeting or by the Academic Engagement team when meeting other Turing liaisons.

Use of the Turing space is heavily oversubscribed and cannot be used as a satellite office for Turing liaisons. Visitors to the space must have a purpose for visiting and be contributing to the Institute.

As standard, travel expenses for Turing liaisons will be the responsibility of the University, unless otherwise advised for a specific event/meeting.
What meetings will Turing liaisons be required to attend?
There will be an optional weekly virtual drop-in (1 hour) where Turing liaisons can ask questions and speak with one another. This drop-in will also feature regular guest speakers from the Institute, particularly where a new scheme is to be launched and feedback on plans are sought. Advance notice of such guest speakers will always be given.

There will be an annual Turing liaison away day where in-person attendance is required. Advance notice will be provided.

Benefits
What are the benefits of joining the network?
The network is designed to facilitate better connections across the data science/AI landscape. The benefits of the network are detailed in the Call Document.

How can the Turing’s brand be used by members of the network?
Members of the Turing University Network will have access to a bespoke network logo, which can be featured on university websites. Full guidance on how this can be used will be distributed to successful applicants.

Miscellaneous
Will there be a break clause should my university wish to leave the Turing University Network?
Universities will join on an initial 2-year basis. The Operational Alliance Memorandum includes a clear exit process should the university wish to leave.