
**Enrichment scheme
2024-2025
FAQs**

Community award

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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 the Enrichment scheme until your second year. You should also have a good idea of where your research is taking you.

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 before you start your Enrichment Scheme.

You should not apply if the Enrichment scheme award falls within the last 6 months of your PhD, if this means you will be in the 'write up' phase. You must be in your active research phase for the full duration of the scheme. You should not apply if you are registered at a non-UK / Republic of Ireland university / Institute.

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 Alan Turing Institute is 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 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.

Can I still do a paid or unpaid internship whilst on the Enrichment scheme?

The simple answer is no, you are not able to undertake a separate internship whilst on the Enrichment scheme. To undertake a full-time internship, you are usually asked to suspend your PhD, which would make you ineligible for the Enrichment scheme. Students are expected to engage and participate in The Alan Turing Institute community during the 9 month period of the Community award, which also means part-time internships are not permitted.

Where a student pursues an internship opportunity whilst on the Enrichment scheme, it is expected they would cease their Community award to start the internship. Candidates must inform The Alan Turing Institute at the earliest opportunity to discuss options.

Are there nationality or other eligibility restrictions?

There are no nationality restrictions, except on the Defence and Security projects. However, **all applicants must be registered at a UK or Republic of Ireland university/institution** and be able to remain and study legally in the UK or Republic of Ireland for the duration of the programme. It is the student's responsibility to get approval from your university to participate in Enrichment scheme.

The Enrichment scheme Community award is currently open to students registered at a UK or Republic of Ireland university / institution.

What profile does a prospective Enrichment scheme student have?

Candidates will be reviewed against the assessment criteria which is listed in the Call document. There is no "typical" Enrichment student, and the 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.

Can I apply for both the Placement award (in-person) and Community award (remote) to increase my chances of gaining a place?

The simple answer is no. If you apply for the Placement award (closing date 17 January 2024), you cannot also apply for the Community award (closing date 31 January 2024). You will need to withdraw the Placement award application, or the second application (Community award) will automatically be rejected.

When can I attend The Alan Turing Institute office?

The Community award offers remote online-only participation in the Enrichment scheme. However, students can access the Institute's premises to attend research related activities, such as attendance at a meeting with a Turing collaborator, group discussion or research event. The Alan Turing Institute staff are unable to accommodate visits to the office for day-to-day work or social events.

Access to the premises will be as a guest and during core office hours*. It is the obligation of the activity host to follow office procedures to register the community award student as a guest.

Students can use the Enrichment Training Support fund to cover their travel expenses to the office.

**The office is open Monday-Friday from 8:00am until 8:00pm. The Facilities support team is only available from 9am – 5pm.*

The office is closed at the weekends and on public holidays. The office is also closed during the week between Christmas (from 25 December) until the New Year.

Application Guidance

How do I choose the start date and length of my Community award?

The only option for Community award holders is for a 9 month online engagement starting in October 2024 and ending in July 2025.

Do you offer any guidance on how to write an application?

Yes, we offered a session on how to write a competitive application at our Open Event on 24 November and during our webinar on 1 December. A recording of both events is now available on the Enrichment scheme [webpage](#). We also recommend that you reach out to your supervisor and their network to assist you with your application.

Applicants who feel they are at a disadvantage and require further assistance outside of these events and speaking to their supervisor, may contact the Academic Recruitment team to request additional support at academic-recruitment@turing.ac.uk

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 or on +44 (0) 20 3862 3578.

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

Please refer to the **Enrichment scheme focus research areas appendix** which gives further information about the focus research areas and the projects that lie within them.

Will I be assigned a project to work on alongside my PhD research project?

No, students will not be given a project to work on or be expected to produce work for The Alan Turing Institute. Students will be aligned with focus research areas to support networking and knowledge exchange.

Do I need to supply a reference?

You must state who your referee is in your application and tick a box to confirm you have informed them. References are requested at the point of sending you an informal offer by email. It is imperative that when you submit your application you have spoken to your referee, as we will contact them at the same time as sending you the informal offer email. Before we issue you a formal offer, we must receive your reference.

Your referee will be asked if you have consulted with them in advance of submitting the application. **Please note that if it transpires that your referee was not aware of your application then there is a risk that you will not receive a formal offer and any informal offer will be withdrawn.**

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 for Universities and Supervisors** ahead of applying.

If you are selected for the scheme, we will also ask for formal permission from your university for you to participate in Enrichment. This will be done when requesting your reference.

What if my supervisor/referee has questions?

We recommend supervisors review the **Guidance for Universities and Supervisors** and understand the difference between the Placement and Community award. Supervisors can contact 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 a short timeframe during summer 2024.

Can I reapply if I have been unsuccessful previously?

If you were unsuccessful in a previous application, you may reapply as long as you still meet the eligibility criteria. We will not look at your previous application and will consider you as a fresh applicant. The review panel will not be made aware of any previous applications. You may also be interested in looking into other opportunities offered by The Alan Turing Institute such as our Data Study Groups and the Turing Internship Network.

What to expect from the Enrichment scheme

How does the funding work?

As the Community award requires participants to engage remotely there is no financial award attached to it. This is due to remote nature of the engagement and no requirement to relocate or commute.

You must check with your existing funding conditions before applying to make sure that there is no conflict of interest. If it transpires that there is a conflict you could jeopardise your place on the Enrichment scheme and also your overall PhD funding. If you have questions, please contact academic-recruitment@turing.ac.uk.

What can I use the Enrichment Training Support fund for?

The Enrichment Training Support fund is intended to enrich and support the student's doctoral studies in line with the aims and objectives and promote collaboration across the scheme. This fund is worth up to **£1,000** and can be used flexibly to cover the following examples, subject to pre-approval:

- Training activities both internal and external including course fees and accommodation and subsistence costs.
- Attendance at conferences including conference fees and accommodation and subsistence costs.
- Additional research costs including subscription costs and public engagement activities.

- Attending The Alan Turing Institute offices when invited for training or collaboration purposes.

The following are examples of ineligible costs:

- Academic fees or university registration fees
- Hardware costs
- Assets
- Commuting costs to: home university; social visits or peer to peer collaboration at The Alan Turing Institute or elsewhere.
- Staff costs, including salary.
- Participant incentives, such as vouchers or gifts
- Publication and journal submission costs
- Hiring office/events space

Your application should outline how you intend to use the Enrichment Training Support fund, which we recommend is aligned with the aims and objectives of the scheme, along with how you would use it to collaborate.

What equipment am I provided with?

Enrichment students will be provided with a Turing email address and IT account to enable access to Turing's digital workspace and community.

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

Among the research benefits of the Enrichment scheme are:

- Access to The Alan Turing Institute online community, including Slack

access. A collaborative online space with no disciplinary boundaries.

- Opportunities to network with students and researchers working in other domains, including in [Turing Interest Groups](#) and [Data Study Groups](#).
- Opportunity to apply for computing resources (dependent on availability).
- Networking opportunities and chances to build presentation and communication skills.

What are examples of collaborative opportunities offered by the Turing?

An example of opportunities offered to students during the 2023 Enrichment scheme can be found below:

- [Data Study Groups](#) – Intensive collaborative hackathons where Enrichment students can take part to work on a challenge proposed by a business partner. These can be in person or remote events.
- [Interest Groups](#) – Enrichment students can become active members of more than 40 Interest Groups where researchers, students and practitioners discuss in depth focused areas of research.
- For 2024-2025 we wish to align Enrichment students with projects that sit in our focus research areas. We hope to align as many students as possible, but we cannot guarantee a student the first choice made on their application form. Once aligned with a project, students will not be restricted to collaborating with the aligned project and are encouraged to collaborate widely. Please see the Call document and appendix for further information.

Will the Turing organise visits to collaborators on behalf of award holders?

Students should self-organise any visits to collaborators they wish to engage with and use the Enrichment Training Support fund to cover eligible costs. The Alan Turing Institute is not responsible for making bookings and other travel arrangements.

What learning & upskilling opportunities are available?

The Skills team coordinates learning activities and upskilling opportunities throughout the year for The Alan Turing Institute and wider research community. Many of the training activities will be offered hybrid to enable inclusion.

In order to contribute to the collaborative nature of The Alan Turing Institute, students are also encouraged to self-organise talks and tutorials online 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-focused activities, alongside support from the Skills team and Academic Services team.

Students also have the opportunity to present their research to the wider Alan Turing Institute community through (virtual) posters and presentations, technical talks at invited meetings, casual coffee chats or national PhD networking days.

The following are examples of training 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 2024-25 call.

- **Self-paced Online Learning Courses** – a number of [online courses](#) focused on Responsible AI, AI standards and other topics are available for students to take in their own time.
- **Research Engineering Group Drop-in sessions** – regular, informal, community-led sessions where students & researchers can come along to ask questions about technical problems or challenges, or to ask for general technical advice.
- Student Lunch & Learns.
- National networking and presentation days bimonthly.

- Conferences, workshops, symposia and talks – organised by project teams, research programmes and interest groups.

How will my experience be monitored?

Students will be asked to complete a review questionnaire usually within the first term and also at the end of their engagement. Some students may be asked to present their work at meetings or events on a voluntary basis. To measure the impact of the Enrichment scheme on their studies and career, we may contact them and relevant university staff sometime after the PhD is completed to enquire about future studies and career choices. 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.

Do I need to stay in contact with my supervisor?

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

What pastoral support is available to Enrichment students?

Our Academic Services team provide operational and pastoral support to students. Students can also access some of The Alan Turing Institute staff wellbeing provisions. Any feedback on this support should be provided directly to the Academic Services team.

There are also volunteer roles available to students, that support the cohort's experience and community building which can be applied to when on the scheme.

Financial matters

There is no financial award attached to the Enrichment scheme Community award, but students have access to the Enrichment Training Support fund and Grassroots funding.

How do I claim the Enrichment Training Support fund?

The Enrichment Training Support fund of up to £1000 can be claimed from the start of the Enrichment Community award in October for activities taking place before the end of the programme in July 2025.

Once on the programme, students can claim the Enrichment Training Support fund by first applying to our Academic Services team for authorisation that the expense meets the eligibility criteria. They can then make the relevant purchase before submitting a receipt and claiming a reimbursement. Receipts must be submitted within two months of the purchase or booking being made.

Students will also be given access to the Institute's travel booking system in order to make travel and accommodation bookings for conferences that meet the criteria of the Enrichment Training Support fund. All bookings must have prior approval from the Academic Services team.

Other Information

How can I find out more about the Enrichment scheme?

We ran an Open Event on Friday 24 November. This was followed by a live webinar and Q&A session on Friday 1 December for those that were unable to attend the Open Event in person.

The Open Event was held at The Alan Turing Institute and provided an overview of the scheme, how to apply, gave an opportunity to engage with current and former students and hear about other opportunities at The Alan Turing Institute. A recording of both events is now available on the [website](#).

The Academic Recruitment team are always happy to answer your questions and can be contacted at academic-recruitment@turing.ac.uk or call +44 (0) 20 3862 3578.