**Alan Turing Institute Turing Fellowship Scheme and Turing sponsored project proposals 2018**

**Internal deadline: 23 April 2018**

Applications are invited for the Alan Turing Institute Turing Fellowship Scheme (previously known as the Alan Turing Institute Faculty Fellowship Scheme) and for Turing Sponsored Projects (new scheme for 2018). Applicants may apply for either or both schemes.

***The Institute***

The Alan Turing Institute has been established as a Joint Venture whose founding partners are the Universities of Cambridge, Edinburgh, Oxford, UCL and Warwick and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council. The Institute has recently welcomed a number of other Universities as partners, bringing the Turing university network to eleven institutions (for details see the Turing’s [announcement of the expanded network](https://www.turing.ac.uk/media/news/two-universities-join-alan-turing-institute/)). The Institute is the national institute for data science and brings together researchers from across the range of data science disciplines – including digital humanities, social data science, health data science, computer science, mathematics, statistical science and engineering – as well as seeking to encourage engagement between academia and the private, public and third sectors. The Institute is headquartered at the British Library. For more details see: <https://www.turing.ac.uk/>

The Alan Turing Institute seeks to grow its research community and activities, building on the successful initial research outcomes involving its founder members and in recognition of the growth from its new university partners. To this end, the Institute is inviting the submission of applications for Turing Fellowships and Turing sponsored projects (supported by Institute core funds) in support of the Institute’s scientific aims and objectives. The aim of this process is to allocate Institute resources to Fellows and research projects that will have substantial impact in the areas of data science and artificial intelligence. The expectation is that successful Fellows’ projects will provide excellent scientific results in their initial duration and pave the way for even greater success (e.g. in continuation projects with external support).

***Turing Fellowship Scheme***

The purpose of the Turing Fellowship Scheme is to allow University academic staff to spend time at the Institute, increase their interaction with colleagues in related disciplines and at other universities, initiate research through new collaborations and partnerships and help set the research agenda for the Institute.

Turing Fellows are scholars with proven research excellence in data science, artificial intelligence, or a related field, whose research would be significantly enhanced through active involvement with the Turing network of universities and partners. They will be invited to contribute to the activities and training at the core of the Institute’s mission through their research and involvement. They are expected to bring to the Turing ideas or proposals for new collaborative projects with the potential to secure external funding, or research expertise which aligns with an existing Turing research project.

The normal tenure of a Turing Fellow is one to two years (applicants to this round will normally begin their Fellowship in October 2018); individuals may apply for renewal. Fellowships supported through this mechanism provide access to the Institute, its facilities and resources, and support for travel and subsistence costs to spend time at the Institute.

Applicants may request a 5%FTE ‘buy-out’ to support spending 5% or more of their time in residence at the Turing Institute conducting research and participating in Turing activities. This is not a required part of an application, Fellowships may also be awarded without any buy-out of time (although Fellows will still be expected to participate in Institute activities). Please note that this represents a change to previous rounds of this call, which allowed for larger buy-outs of time.

Current Turing Fellows whose Fellowship will end before December 2018 may apply to this call for an extension to their Fellowship (noting the new limitation of buy-out to 5%FTE).

Among the benefits researchers may draw upon at the Turing are:

* the opportunity to collaborate with researchers they would not typically encounter and work outside their domain, including Turing Interest Groups;
* the opportunity to engage with industry partners, Government and the third sector, benefitting from the Turing’s position as a national institute;
* a team of Software Engineers/Data Scientists;
* access to computer resources including cloud credits, GPU cluster, high performance computing and local IT services;
* access to seed-funding and workshop funding;
* support from the Institute’s research facilitation team with bids for externally funded Turing collaborative projects;
* a physical collaborative space in central London with no disciplinary boundaries; and
* limited funded support (likely to be to those who become PIs on Turing projects).

Applicants who request more support for their time or other resources should consider submitting a Turing Sponsored Project proposal, as described below. Turing Sponsored Projects allow buy-out of investigator time and may be held in addition to a Turing Fellowship)

*Eligibility*

Applicants must already hold contracts of employment with the University of Cambridge. Applicants who wish to apply for a buy-out of time must be able to demonstrate that they are not precluded from this by any conditions of grant and that they will remain an employee of the University throughout the period of their Fellowship. This should be clearly confirmed in your letter of support from your Head of Department (see below).

*Selection Criteria*

Turing Fellows are selected on the basis of their ability to contribute outstanding research which supports the Institute’s current research foci (or, exceptionally, proposes new ones); and to establish ongoing, sustainable research activities.

*Turing Fellowship Application Process*

All applicants should first seek approval from their Head of Department.

Applications should include:

1. Applicant name and department
2. Whether you will be applying for a 5% ‘buy-out’ of your time.
3. A short current CV (of no more than 2 sides of A4)
4. A letter of support signed by your Head of Department (including confirmation of eligibility – see above).
5. A Fellowship Proposal of no more than 2 sides of A4, to include:
   1. A Research plan for the applicant’s work and its relevance to the Institute’s research foci in data science and artificial intelligence (see <https://www.turing.ac.uk/research/>).
   2. Explanation of how involvement with the Institute will benefit the proposed research, and description of how the applicant plans to engage with the Institute during the fellowship period;
   3. Intentions for collaboration through the Institute, such as with other Turing researchers, industry partners, government etc.

Please submit your application to [researchstrategy@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:researchstrategy@admin.cam.ac.uk) by 23 April 2018.

Selection for the Fellowship Scheme will be made by the Alan Turing Institute, following shortlisting by a panel appointed by the University of Cambridge. It is expected that decisions on Fellowships will be made in the week commencing 28 May 2018.

**Turing Sponsored Projects**

This is a new Institute scheme for 2018 designed to identify and support collaborative research projects within the Institute’s university network. The projects will be expected to include:

* cross-university collaboration,
* cross-disciplinary research,
* research objectives which address a societal problem or Turing challenge area,
* scholarly excellence which will make a significant, original contribution to relevant field(s),
* a level of ambition and scale befitting a national institute, and
* the potential to ensure continuity of the work through external support.

Projects will be developed in collaboration with the Turing Institute in a culture of consultation and testing ideas. The Turing research facilitation team, along with Programme Directors and University Liaison Directors and University Liaison Leads, will work with researchers to identify additional opportunities for collaboration with other academic and non-academic partners through the Institute.

Projects may range in size. Please see the annex to this advert for details of the various forms of projects that will be considered.

*Turing Sponsored Project application process*

All applicants should first seek approval from their Head of Department.

Applications should include:

1. Applicant name and department
2. A short current CV (of no more than 2 sides of A4)
3. A letter of support signed by your Head of Department (including confirmation of eligibility – see above).
4. A Proposal of no more than 4 sides of A4, to include:

* scientific background and motivation, and fit to Turing’s research challenge areas for research in data science and artificial intelligence;
* anticipated outputs and impact of this work as they relate to the university, the Turing, and the wider data science and AI research landscape;
* evidence of core expertise required to support the programme;
* intentions for collaborating with others outside of the university; for example, Turing researchers, industry partners, government, etc.;
* prospects for continuation of the project beyond initial funded period; and
* details and justification of resources requested.

Please submit your application to [researchstrategy@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:researchstrategy@admin.cam.ac.uk) by 23 April 2018.

Selection for the Turing Sponsored Project Scheme will be made by the Alan Turing Institute, following shortlisting by a panel appointed by the University of Cambridge. Awards will be determined on scientific merit and will ensure a balance across partner universities.

*Evaluation criteria*

The following criteria will be considered in reviewing applications for Turing Sponsored Projects:

* Scholarly importance and originality of proposed research
* Compatibility with the Institute’s strategy and ability to help the Turing Institute fulfil its mission.
* Past research record of the applicant(s) and promise of future scholarly contribution.
* Likelihood of impact of the work and continuation beyond the initial project period via external support.
* Interdisciplinarity; and the possibilities of collaboration across partner universities.

***Future calls***

It is anticipated that additional calls for Turing Fellows will be issued up to twice a year going forwards, in line with the current Institute priority areas.

The Institute anticipates maintaining a level of support for projects in subsequent years and so currently expects to issue similar calls for projects on an annual basis.

**Annex: Exemplar Turing Sponsored Project Structures**

The example project structures that follow below are provided to indicate the anticipated scope of projects that could be supported through this call. They are by no means exhaustive, and the Institute is open to considering projects of very different structure. Resource constraints mean that projects substantially larger than these examples are unlikely to be supported.

1. Funded Fellowship Project (similar to current Turing Fellows model) to support, for example:
   * 20% of PIs time to pursue research in topic X, and collaborate with specific named individuals at the Institute for 12 months;
   * £10K to pay for the collection of a dataset needed by the research project;
   * Travel support to bring a separately funded PhD student to the Institute to participate in project meetings.
2. Collaborative Research Project to support, for example:
   * 25% of PI’s time to lead the research in topic Y and develop new algorithms over 18 months;
   * 10% of named external collaborator time to participate in the project;
   * 6 months of Research Software engineer time to produce robust implementations of the developed algorithms;
   * £10K of cloud-compute credits to perform large-scale evaluations of the developed software.
3. Flagship Turing Project to support, for example:
   * 40% of PI time over 2 years to lead substantial research effort in topic Z in collaboration with stakeholders in industry;
   * 20% coinvestigator time;
   * 2 postdoctoral researchers for a 2-year commitment to drive research forward, based at Turing full-time;
   * 15K to host kick-off and capstone workshops bringing together project team, stakeholders and related researchers to gather requirements and disseminate results.

(d) Scoping projects to support development of applications for substantial external funding.