The Alan Turing Institute Research Fellowships

We invite applications from talented postdoctoral researchers for an Alan Turing Research Fellowship Award in the area of data science. Researchers will be working on data science broadly interpreted. These prestigious fellowships provide initial funding for three years with the opportunity to apply for an extension of up to two additional years. **Five or more positions are available.**

The Alan Turing Institute

The Alan Turing Institute (The Turing) is the national centre for data science, created in 2015 with the mission to make great leaps in data science research to change the world for the better.

The Institute has cross-disciplinarity at its core; we bring researchers in mathematics and theoretical computer science, statistics and machine learning, algorithm for data analytics and distributed computing, computational social science and data ethics, and industry partners, to work together in an open and collaborative environment under a shared goal to generate world-class research in data science.

Our researchers are motivated by driving impact, both through theoretical development and application to real-world problems. In our first year we have identified six priority sectors to focus our translational research: Data Centric Engineering, Defence and Security, Smart Cities, Culture & Media, Financial Services, and Health & Wellbeing, and have attracted major funders including Intel, Lloyd’s Register Foundation, GCHQ and HSBC to work with us as strategic partners to advance research in these areas.

More than 90 Faculty Fellows from our five founding partner universities (Cambridge, Edinburgh, Oxford, UCL and Warwick) are currently based part-time at the Turing in London, along with a growing number of full-time Research Fellows and research students. For a list of all Faculty and Research Fellows and their research interests, please see our webpage [www.turing.ac.uk/people](http://www.turing.ac.uk/people).

We invite you to join us as we grow our research community, supporting our goal to develop the next generation of data science leaders, shape the public conversation, and push the boundaries of this new science for the public good.

This call

Through this targeted call we are seeking outstanding early career researchers to join us at the Turing.

Fellowships will be awarded to individual candidates who will hold the award at one of our partner universities (Cambridge, Edinburgh, Oxford, UCL and Warwick), where the candidate will be employed, but spend most of their time at the Turing Headquarters at the British Library in London.

The fellowships offer successful candidates the unique opportunity to work with faculty from all five partner universities, as well as researchers within the host university and collaborators from across the international data science community.
Through this call we intend to strengthen our capacity for translational research in the challenge areas outlined in our Shaping our Strategy document:

1) Data Centric Engineering
2) Defence & Security
3) Culture & Media
4) Smart Cities
5) Financial Services
6) Health & Wellbeing

Within financial services we are particularly interested in online transactions, automated auctions, blockchain & distributed ledgers.

In addition, we are also offering Fellowships to candidates with cross cutting skills and research interests including privacy, social sciences, systems & platforms, and statistics.

Key eligibility requirements

Successful candidates are expected to have:

1) a PhD or equivalent qualification in a relevant subject at the point of taking up the Fellowship.
2) an excellent publication record and/or demonstrated excellent research potential such as via preprints.
3) a novel and challenging research agenda that will advance the strategic objectives of the Institute.
4) evidence of working collaboratively with leadership potential.

Fellowships are open to all qualified applicants, regardless of background.

Diversity and equality are promoted in all aspects of the award offer process and career management of our researchers. In keeping with the principles of the Turing, we especially encourage applications from female researchers and ethnic minorities.

Fellowship descriptor

Role to be funded by the grant: The Alan Turing Institute Research Fellows will be employed by a partner University in a supernumerary research position and based primarily at the Turing Headquarters at the British Library, London. A partner university allocation will be made for successful candidates.

Remuneration: competitive with research Fellowships and university pay scales and dependent on level of qualifications, skills and experience. An additional allowance is funded by the grant, payable to assist with London living expenses.

Main purpose of the Fellowship:

- To develop a research programme with the partner university at the Turing and conduct outstanding, creative and innovative research in data science, to develop internationally-significant outcomes through high-impact publications.
To collaborate with others across the partner universities, the Turing and its partners and the data science community beyond, towards outputs and outcomes that yield significant academic, societal or economic impact.

To play a role in advancing the research programmes of the partner university and the Turing.

To achieve research excellence as appropriate to the applicant’s discipline.

We want the successful candidate to use the fellowship to:

- Generate and pursue original research ideas, design and conduct a successful programme in investigation and develop innovative, world-class research.
- Publish research in high quality peer-reviewed national and international journals. Present research results at national and international meetings, conferences, seminars and workshops.
- Take part in knowledge exchange and/or translation activities as appropriate; e.g. collaborative working with the Turing’s partners, or with government departments/policy-makers, and on public engagement, policy events, etc.
- Maintain their own professional development, with support from the Turing and partner university.

The fellowship will also provide the successful candidate access to working with leading researchers which may provide the opportunity to:

- Build research collaborations within the broad spectrum of activity at the Turing.
- Develop research collaborations nationally and internationally to support the research programme, facilitate and participate in crosscutting research collaborations as appropriate.
- Support and contribute to the development of research links between the Turing and its partners, and the wider data science community as appropriate.

Fellowship person specification

Essential Qualifications

PhD or equivalent qualification in appropriate discipline at the point of taking up the Fellowship.

Skills and aptitude

Essential:
- Proven excellence in data science research.
- Evidence of outstanding approach to identifying future research directions in data science.
- Demonstrate ability to plan a creative and collaborative research programme.
- Outline potential to lead and inspire others, for example, through mentoring and/or self-organisation of peers.

Desirable:
- Good communications and interpersonal skills and an aspiration to develop such skills across a broad audience.
Basic Terms and Conditions of Grant (further particular terms and conditions are available on request)

1. Funding of competitive salary and London living allowance. The grant is awarded to the allocated host partner university, who will employ the Research Fellow. Salary and allowances within the appropriate university pay scales are dependent on level of qualifications, skills and relevant experience.

2. Duration of award- Fellowship funding is available for 3 years, with the potential to apply for an extension for an additional 2 years. Full terms and conditions of the grant available on request.

3. Mentoring- Fellows will be mentored by one or more senior academics based at the Turing Headquarters and in conjunction with the relevant host university.

4. Each candidate will be allocated a host partner university. The host university will employ the Fellow in a supernumerary research position, however all fellows will be primarily based at the Turing’s Headquarters in the British Library, London.

Application procedure

Applications should be made by applying at: https://ati.flexigrant.com/

You will be asked to complete the application form online and provide (in pdf format):

- Your Curriculum Vitae including publications and previous degrees.
- A research proposal with emphasis on your vision and ambitions (maximum 3 x A4 sides).

References must be received in order to submit your application. You will be asked to provide contact details for three references. They must login and submit a pdf letter of recommendation before the closing date. It is advised you request this from your references as soon as possible as incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Assessment process

Assessments will be carried out in two stages:

**Stage 1- Person Specification, Research Quality and Visions**

Qualities of the applicant will be assessed against the Fellowship person specification above, along with the applicant’s proposed research agenda (specifically, the quality and ambition). However, all elements of the application will be considered.

**Guidance for applicants – Person Specification**

This phase will focus predominantly on the applicant’s CV and track record, although other sections of the application will also be reviewed. Applicants are advised to
approach these materials as would be the case with any call for applications for Fellowship funding.

*Guidance for applicants – Research Quality*

Please ensure that your research proposal includes the following criteria:

1. **General summary** - this should be a short paragraph explaining the focus of your research in a non-technical manner, suitable for a non-specialist.

2. **Scientific aims and objectives.**

3. **Vision and ambition** - a short paragraph outlining the vision and ambition of your research program, identifying individual research challenges. Innovative and ambitious approaches to challenges from across data science are strongly encouraged, and collaborative aspects will be highly valued.

**Stage 2 – Interview**

Successful candidates will be invited to interview. This will involve a short presentation from the candidate based on their application, which will then be followed by a discussion with the interview panel.

*Guidance for applicants*

Further advice on specific requirements and guidance will be provided to applicants when invited to interview.

**Eligibility**

As this scheme is predominantly aimed at early-career researchers, applicants must hold a PhD with a Viva date within 5 years of the anticipated starting date window (1 October 2017 – 31 March 2018). Consideration will additionally be given to applicants who have taken a non-standard career path following their PhD, or where the applicant has lost time in their careers through extenuating circumstances.

Applicants must have at least one preprint.

**CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: 18:00 GMT 20 DECEMBER 2016 (GMT)**

The Alan Turing Institute (as the funder) and its partner universities (as the employer) reserves the right to reject, at any stage, applications that do not fit the remit, eligibility or ethos of this scheme. Fellowships awarded by the Alan Turing Institute Turing are non-transferrable.

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Informal enquiries about the application process should be directed to: fellowship@turing.ac.uk