

TURING SPRING AND SUMMER SCHOOLS CALL (2019/20)

The Alan Turing Institute would like to invite interested members of its academic community to propose 3-4 day residential workshops in a “summer school” format, aimed at Turing students and the broader UK doctoral and postdoctoral data science community, to be scheduled in March, June or August 2020. These workshops will support the Institute’s goal to train new generations of data science and AI leaders with the necessary breadth and depth of technical and ethical skills to match the UK’s growing industrial and societal needs.

The Turing will provide a grant of up to £10,000 to support the workshop’s activities (for example, to cover the costs of travel and accommodation for invited speakers). Organisational and promotional support will also be provided by the Turing. It is expected that workshop costs relating to participant accommodation or subsistence will be covered by a registration fee, or co-funding where available. The Turing will pay the registration fees for fully-funded Turing doctoral students via their student training funds. We do not expect funded events to generate a profit.

Suggestions submitted in this call will be evaluated by members of the Training Steering Group (TSG), with the support of the Researcher Development and Training team. The TSG is responsible for the development and quality of the Turing’s training and development strategy and activities.

Activities will be delivered between March and August 2020. We expect to schedule three 3-4 day workshops in this period. Once an application has been approved, the Researcher Development and Training team will work closely with the applicant(s) to support the logistical planning of the workshop.

Please note that due to the number of applications received, it might not be possible to approve all applications. However, feedback can be provided upon request up until 3 months after the application deadline and will always be given.

Event scope

We are seeking proposals that are focused on a key topic at the cutting edge of data science. The workshop should allow Turing-funded students and their UK peers to begin to explore the chosen topic in some depth. Our goal is that the events will enhance the capacity of Turing students and UK doctoral and postdoctoral researchers to make world-leading progress in the topic the workshop focuses on.

The primary audience of the event (or the part of the event for which funding is sought here) should be Turing-funded students and UK based doctoral and postdoctoral data science researchers. We are particularly keen to see that funding requested for these events will benefit the Turing student cohort.

Data science is a multidisciplinary field and it is therefore clear that not all workshops will be relevant for every data science student, at the Turing or beyond. However, in order to help maximise participation and the benefit of the workshops, the application should include detailed information of the prerequisites and links to suitable materials to aid preparation by a wide range of students.

Event format

We are seeking to host 3-4 day workshops. If you have an activity in mind that might not be applicable for a full-length 3-4 day workshop, then you can submit a proposal for a 2-day workshop which may be combined with another activity. If you are aware of another suitable activity for which funding is being sought, you can indicate this in your application

Please note that we would expect the request for funding to be reduced for proposals of 2 or 3 day activities. We would not expect the combined budget of 2 co-located workshops to exceed the maximum budget for a 4-day workshop.

Activities may be developed as new ideas for this call or may be existing university partner activities that would be partially sponsored by this call and opened up to Turing students.

The funded event should be branded or co-branded as a Turing Workshop or Spring/Summer School. The preferred name for the event can be proposed in the application.

Guiding principles

The following points have been common themes of feedback from our learners and from discussions with academics about the landscape of doctoral training, including the Scientific Advisory Board. They should therefore guide the development of any proposed activity:

- 1) Training needs to be pitched at the right level for a diverse set of excellent learners. They are willing to work hard on new topics, but need guidance to prepare so they can make the most of the face-to-face learning opportunities.
- 2) Training needs to be deep enough to allow further development of learning after the sessions. Feedback from student representatives suggests that there is little evidence that superficial introductions to wide ranges of topics inspire students to pursue new topics.
- 3) Training needs to impact on research. The best feedback from students has generated outcomes such as “changing the way I do research” and “providing a new line of enquiry” and has been driven by experiential learning of skills through example.
- 4) Training needs to meet more than the technical needs of the student. The role of training in both cohort building and development of character and maturity needs to be acknowledged, even if training is not designed to explicitly develop these skills.

Before completing the application form

Please ensure you have considered the following:

- There are due to be a maximum of 3 workshops throughout the academic year, the approximate dates of which will be March, June and August. Please state if you wish to avoid any of these 3 broad slots so that this can be taken into account when selecting workshops for funding. The Researcher Development and Training team will finalise the scheduling of the successful workshops in discussion with you.
- The call is currently open to researchers within the Turing community (Turing Fellows, Turing Research Fellows, Turing employees or researchers at a Turing partner university).
- It is expected the workshops take place at an external venue (not the Turing).
- The key audience for the workshops are Turing PhD students (both those on a Turing Doctoral studentship and those who are part of the Turing Enrichment scheme) and postdoctoral researchers. We also wish to engage doctoral and postdoctoral researchers across the UK data science community.

- Title and explanation – make sure you can explain what your workshop will be about in terms that will make sense to researchers of all disciplines.
- Significance – why this is a significant topic for data science researchers, and its relationship to the [Institute's aims](#) and [research challenges](#).
- Audience – who is the desired audience? What preparation steps might potential participants from outside your field be able to take to also benefit from the event?
- Outcomes – it should be clear what attendees could hope to achieve by attending the workshop, and how you will facilitate these outcomes.
- How equality, diversity and inclusion can be considered within the workshop

Submitting your application and next steps

You are required to complete the [application online via Flexigrant](#). Once you have filled in the application form, please submit this by the advertised deadline.

Once your form has been received by the Researcher Development and Training team, they will then add supporting information, based on your application, for the steering group to consider. For example, this could be a more detailed estimate of costs.

Budget

A maximum of £10,000 is available to fund each successful (4-day) summer school. It is expected that the request for funding would be reduced for proposals of 2-day or 3-day activities.

Eligible costs

Type of cost	Notes
Venue and room hire	Please note that we would not expect to cover hire costs for a venue belonging to your institution, costs for hire of AV equipment at your institution, or costs for technical support at your institution, unless such costs are always charged to faculty hosting events at this venue. Please make sure the nature of any such institutional venue hire costs is clear in your application.
Organiser and speaker travel, accommodation and catering	<p>Depending on the circumstances, international travel may be requested. If successful, costs would need to be kept in line with the Institute's expenses policy, which can be provided.</p> <p>The most economic and low-carbon means of travel should be chosen wherever practical and claimants should use any existing travel cards and discounts held wherever possible to reduce the cost.</p> <p>Claimants travelling by train or plane must use standard class/economy (unless a cheaper fare is available in first class; in this case please retain evidence of the price difference e.g. print screen of prices).</p>
Equipment not available at the venue	For example, stationery or equipment needed

	for the running of the event, which the venue is unable to provide.
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Ineligible costs

Type of cost	Notes
Participant accommodation and travel	<p>This would be funded by the participants, or if centrally sourced accommodation was available, through the participants registration fee.</p> <p>Fully-funded Turing students who wish to attend will use their training fund to cover these costs.</p>
Participant catering (including; meals and refreshments during the day, evening drinks receptions)	This would be funded through the payment of a registration fee by participants.
Speaker fees	In exceptional circumstances, budget for speaker fees may be considered. In these cases justification and outline of costs for speaker fees will need to be provided on the application form.