

Data Sciences, AI and the Alan Turing Institute

Jon Rowe, Director of Research, EPS



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

THE INSTITUTE
OF ADVANCED
STUDIES

The
Alan Turing
Institute

The Turing Institute

- The Alan Turing Institute is the national institute for data science and AI.
- Based in the British Library in London, it has 13 partner Universities.
- The University of Birmingham has been a partner since April 2018.



Turing activities

- The Turing hosts workshops, seminars, training events.
- It has a PhD programme, joint with the partner Universities.
- It sponsors “Turing Fellows” to work collaboratively on new research projects.



Events

- Events happen frequently at the Turing. Check their website for details of what's coming up: www.turing.ac.uk
- Anyone from Birmingham can register to attend. If you are a Turing Fellow, the travel costs will be covered.
- We are seeking to set up a small fund to help pay for others to attend events.
- We can propose new events (e.g. discussions with CERN).



PhD programme

- The Turing provides funding for PhD students.
- Students spend some of their time at the Turing, and some at the University.
- There is an annual cycle for proposing project ideas and recruiting new students.
- The next cycle will probably begin in the autumn.



Turing Fellows

- Academics can be appointed as “Turing Fellows” for up to two years.
- Turing Fellows get expenses paid to visit the Turing Institute.
- They are expected to develop new collaborative research proposals across the Turing network.



Turing Fellows

- A small number of Turing Fellows can be associated with specific larger-scale projects.
- The Turing will provide some resource to help get these projects going.
- They are expected to result in major external funding, involving the Turing plus at least 2 partner Universities.



Research Programmes

- The Turing has a number of Research Programmes: defence and security; data science at scale; public policy; artificial intelligence; data science for science; data-centric engineering; urban analytics.
- Some programmes have external partners who provide some funding.
- Aligning your research proposals to programmes can be very useful.



The Turing is evolving

- Turing has recently expanded from 5 to 13 university partners.
- New programmes and strategic partners are being added.
- Bold ambitions to be a major global centre of excellence in data science and AI.
- Turing Fellow programme is being revised.



UoB engagement

- Turing University Lead – currently Jon Rowe on interim basis.
- University Manager – a 50% administrator/research facilitator.
- Seeking a University budget to encourage active participation and collaboration.
- Decisions on current round of TFs from July. Next round from September.



UoB activity beyond Turing

- Major interest in data science and AI across all five Colleges.
- Lots of opportunities for new collaborative, interdisciplinary research.
- Evolving an “Institute for Data Science and AI” to coordinate and catalyse this activity.
- Opportunities for exciting teaching provision.



Get involved

- The Turing is not a funding agency – but a resource to help kick-start and catalyse new collaborative research.
- What you get out therefore depends on how much you are willing to put in.
- If you have questions, or ideas about how to be involved in these activities, then please contact Jon Rowe (j.e.rowe@cs.bham.ac.uk)

