Turing PGR Placements Guidance

Overview

The Turing Scheme is the UK Government's new global programme for studying and working abroad, providing students in the UK with funding to support international education opportunities worldwide. It replaces the UK's participation in the Europe-wide Erasmus+ programme.

One strand of the scheme supports research placements for postgraduate researchers (PGRs) at international partner universities and research institutes. PGRs, in any academic discipline, will receive a grant to conduct a research placement as an integrated part of their existing programme. A placement can run for a minimum of four weeks up to a maximum of 4 months.

The aim of the placement is to add value to a PGR's existing doctoral programme through exposure to a different research environment and access to complementary facilities and expertise. The scheme will provide PGRs with a global perspective, improve their intercultural communication skills, expand their academic network, and enhance their future employability.

Placements

The placement must have clear aims and objectives and specific outcomes e.g. research paper, thesis chapter, research report or development of specialist research skills.

The scheme is not designed to cover fieldwork expenses or attendance at international conferences. There is a separate application process for fieldwork and PGRs should consult their local PGR support team for more details. However, it is recognised that in some circumstances an element of fieldwork might be undertaken during the course of the placement. If this is the case, the PGR should provide a clear explanation in the application.

Funding

We expect to be able to support between 20-30 placements in 2022 although the exact number will depend on the nature and strength of applications received.

Funding is available for placements starting from 1st January 2022. Placements must end before 31st August 2022.

Participants will receive a grant which is intended to support their general living costs for the period of time spent abroad on placement. The grant can be used to pay for accommodation, meals, local transport and other necessary living costs. There is no separate payment for international flights, and participants will have to pay for the costs of international flights, visas and Covid tests (if necessary) from other sources e.g. Research Training Support Grant (RTSG) or the research group.

The amount payable will vary and will depend on the duration of the placement and the destination country. Countries are grouped into three categories: Group 1 (high cost of living), Group 2 (medium cost of living), Group 3 (lower cost of living) although the rates for Group 2 and 3 are the same (this has been set by British Council who are the scheme managers).

The indicative rates are:

1. Placements between 4 to 8 weeks:

- Group 1 destinations: £136 per week
- Group 2 and 3 destinations: £120 per week

2. Placements more than 8 weeks:

- Group 1 destinations: £380 per month
- Group 2 and 3 destinations: £335 per month

A full list of country groups can be found on the Turing Scheme [website](). There is no requirement for grant recipients to submit receipts.

Eligibility

The scheme is open to all PGRs (full-time and part-time) who have successfully completed the first 3 months (6 months for part-time PGRs) of their programme before the start of the placment. PGRs in the last 6 months (12 months part-time) of their programme, in submission pending or who have already submitted are not eligible to apply.

Successful applicants will not receive any extension to their programme in order to undertake a placement and cannot apply for an interruption for the duration of the placement. The placement cannot be used as a reason for any future extension or interruption request. PGRs must meet all their existing progression milestones on eProg while on placement.

Host institutions

PGRs should select an appropriate host institution from the list of partners in Annex A. Applications will be accepted for institutions not on the list but applicants will need to give a clear justification for the visit and the expected academic gains in their application.

Applications cannot be accepted in this first call for countries which only allow visitors from the UK with quarantine requirements.

PGRs must meet visa and/or immigration requirements for their intended destination.

Scope of a placement

A placement should relate directly to a PGR's doctoral research and aim to add value to their overall programme. Placements may be undertaken for the following reasons (this is not an exhaustive list):

- to undertake additional specialist research training not available at Manchester
- to use specialist facilities e.g. library, archives.
- to establish research links that will be beneficial to the PGR's current or future academic career
- to disseminate early research findings

Conference attendance or participating in a seminar should not be the primary reason for going on a placement. However PGRs may attend conferences/seminars at the host institution which are directly relevant to their research as part of their placement.

Securing a placement

PGRs should discuss their ideas for a placement with their supervisors at Manchester in the first instance. PGRs must secure a placement with an academic supervisor from an appropriate area of research at the host institution before they apply for funding. Speculative applications will not be accepted.

Supervisors are encouraged to help PGRs find the best fit of host institution and research group for their topic and to use the placement to develop existing relationships or lay the groundwork for future collaborations between teams.

Supervisors may wish to introduce PGRs to academic colleagues at the host institution particularly if they have existing relationships or the PGR may choose to approach a potential supervisor directly. It is likely in this first round that many placements will be arranged with researchers who the supervisors already work with.

All applications must include statements of support from the PGR's home and host supervisors.

Home Supervisors should address the following points:
- The PGR's academic progress so far
- An assessment of the fit between the host supervisor's research and the PGR's research project and anticipated benefits
- Any anticipated benefits of the placement to the supervisor's and/or your team's research
- A description of any potential for future collaboration between UoM and the host institution which may result from the placement.

The supporting statement from the potential host supervisor should include the following:
- The agreed supervision support and contact time to be provided during the placement
- The alignment of their research with that of the PGR's research project
- The agreed programme of study and planned research outputs for the period of the placement
- The facilities that the PGR will have access to as part of the placement
- Any wider benefits of the placement e.g. developing collaboration between the host university and UoM

Accommodation and Travel

Details of arrangements for booking travel and accommodation are subject to confirmation and information will be sent to successful applicants.

Application process

PGRs should apply online through [SmartSurvey](). The form asks PGRs to provide details of the visit and how it will enhance their doctoral research.

It is possible to [preview]() the form before completing it (use the drop down menu in the top right hand corner to navigate the form). Applicants can use the 'save and continue' feature to save the proposal and continue later (a link is sent to the applicant's email address).

In addition to completing the online application form, applicants will be required to submit the following:

- a statement of support from their supervisors
- a statement of support from the academic supervisor at the host institution
- an abbreviated CV (1 page)

Timeline

The earliest start date for placements is 1 January 2022. The latest start date for 4 week placements is 31st July 2022. All placements must be completed by 31 August 2022.

The deadline for applications is 12:00pm Monday 29th November. Applicants will be notified of decisions by early December.

Open for applications	20th October 2021
Closing date	Monday 29th November 2021
Applicants notified	Mid December 2021

Review process

An internal review panel will assess applications. Funding decisions will be based on the quality of the following assessment criteria:

- The purpose of the visit and value added to the PGR's doctoral programme
- The intended work plan (the plan should be realistic and achievable)
- Level of supervision and mentorship committed by the host supervisor
- Strength of recommendation by the home supervisors
- The wider value of the placement e.g. opening up wider opportunities for collaboration.

Reporting

Scheme participants must, as a condition of receiving funding, complete a report that describes the outcomes of the placement no more than one month after return home. A report format will be provided to successful applicants.

Contact

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Annex A: List of host institutions

A*STAR (The Agency for Science, Technology and Research), Singapore

The Chinese University of Hong Kong

European University Institute

Huazhong University of Science & Technology

Indian institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras

King Saud University

Korean Advanced Institute of Science and Technology

KTH Royal Institute of Technology

Ministry of Health, Kenya and Kenyatta University Teaching, Referral and Research Hospital

Nanyang Technological University

National Polytechnical University (Tomsk)

National University Singapore

Peking University Health Sciences Centre

Renmin University

Sabanci University

Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine

Stockholm University

Tel Aviv University

The University of Melbourne

Tokyo Institute of Technology

Tongji University

Tsinghua University

University of Amsterdam

University of Chile

University of Copenhagen

University of Indiana

University of Sao Paulo

University of Toronto

Weizmann Institute of Science