

Turing PGR Placements Guidance

Overview

The Turing Scheme is the UK Government's global programme for studying and working abroad, providing students in the UK with funding to support international education opportunities worldwide.

The scope of the Turing Scheme covers support for 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 28 days (not including travel days) 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. PGRs should consult their local PGR support team for more details of alternative funding opportunities for fieldwork. 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

The exact number will depend on the nature and strength of applications received.

Funding is available for placements starting from 1 February 2025. Placements must end on or before 31st August 2025.

Participants will receive a grant which is intended to provide a top-up contribution towards 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 and visas along with the remainder of their living costs 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 two categories: Group 1 (higher cost of living), Group 2 (lower cost of living) as set by the UK government.

The indicative rates are:

1. Placements between 28 and 56 days:

- Group 1 destinations: £19 per day
- Group 2 destinations: £17 per day

2. Placements more than 56 days:

- Group 1 destinations: £14 per day
- Group 2 and 3 destinations: £12 per day

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

PGRs should check whether undertaking this placement will impact any previously arranged or planned funding/work (e.g. exam or assignment marking).

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 placement. 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 for placements at institutions in the applicant's country of domicile.

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

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 February 2025. The latest start date is 1 August 2025. All placements must be completed by 31 August 2024.

The deadline for applications is 2 December 2024. Applicants will be notified of decisions by 20 December 2024.

Open for applications	October 2024
Closing date	2 December 2024
Applicants notified	20 December 2024

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

Bordeaux University

The Chinese University of Hong Kong

European University Institute

Heidelberg University

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 University Singapore

Osaka University

Peking University Health Sciences Centre

Renmin University

Sabancı University

Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine

Stockholm University

The University of Melbourne

Tohoku University

Tokyo Institute of Technology

Tongji University

Tsinghua University

University of Amsterdam

University of Chile

University of Copenhagen

University of Ghana

University of Indiana

University of Nairobi

University of Sao Paulo

University of Tokyo
University of Toronto