



TURING

SCHEME

Turing Scheme Guide for FE and VET Sector



What is the Turing Scheme?

The Turing Scheme is the UK government's programme to provide funding for international opportunities in education and training across the world. It supports UK education and training providers to offer learners the chance to develop new skills, gain international experience through studying abroad and boost their employability.

Funding is available to eligible UK and British Overseas Territories organisations from across the higher education (HE), further or vocational education and training (FE and VET), and schools sectors.



What's in it for FE and VET?

The Turing Scheme offers FE and VET institutions the opportunity to support the education and development of their learners through visiting other countries and studying with their counterparts abroad. It is an opportunity to offer your learners the chance to acquire new skills, raise aspirations and get a better understanding of other cultures. They can also develop or boost a wide range of soft skills, such as language skills, self-confidence, independence, and resilience.

At an organisational level, FE and VET institutions will establish new or strengthen existing international relationships, gaining and sharing ideas.

Where can our learners go?

FE and VET institutions can send their learners anywhere in the world. There are no restrictions on the country or territory in which Turing Scheme mobilities can take place. However, prevailing [Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office \(FCDO\) travel advice](#) regarding prospective destinations must always be adhered to.



Turing Scheme objectives: key considerations for any application

Global Britain

In line with the UK Government's vision of a Global Britain, Turing Scheme Projects should support high quality placements, enhance existing partnerships, and encourage the forging of new relationships across the world.

Levelling up

Turing Scheme Projects will support social mobility and widen participation across the UK. They should help and promote equal access and opportunities to all Participants regardless of their background.

Developing key skills

Projects will offer unique, career-building opportunities. They will give Participants the hard and soft skills sought by employers and bridge the gap between education and work.

Value for UK taxpayers

Projects will optimise social value in terms of potential costs, benefits, and risks.



Who can apply for funding for FE and VET learners?

The Applicant(s) for an FE and VET study and traineeship Mobility Project must be one or more of the following organisation types:

- an FE college, school, sixth form college or special post-16 institution (SPI) active in the field of FE and VET
- a local or regional public authority, mayoral combined authority, coordination body or another organisation with a role in the field of FE and VET
- a company or other public or private organisation hosting, training or otherwise working with Participants and apprentices in FE and VET

What learners are covered by the funding?

The Turing Scheme will offer Mobility funding for learners who are Participants on recognised UK FE or VET courses, apprenticeships, and T-Levels or a Recent Graduate of a FE or VET provider. Funding is also available for those not in permanent education or training, who may be re-training or upskilling, as long as their training is taking place through colleges or schools, or through government-funded training.

It is also possible to fund persons accompanying FE or VET Participants abroad for safeguarding purposes.

What kind of Mobilities can learners undertake?

- Studies and traineeship Mobility in FE and/or VET providers and/or companies abroad should last a minimum of 2 weeks (defined as 10 work/study days) to a period of 12 months. Where justified Mobilities for 1 week (5 work/study days) can be run to include Participants with special educational needs and/or disabilities. Placements outside of Europe should have a minimum duration of 15 calendar days excluding travel time
- For non-participatory attendance at a WorldSkills skills competition abroad, mobilities can last from one to 10 days

Additional support for those from disadvantaged backgrounds

FE and VET Participants from defined disadvantaged backgrounds will receive actual costs for additional travel expenses, including costs of visas, passports, and health insurance. We see this as crucial because travel related expenses can often be a deterrent to potential Participants. To find out more about what we define as disadvantaged groups, visit the [Widening access page](#) on the Turing Scheme website.

Additional support for those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

For Participants with SEND, the Turing Scheme will fund up to 100% of actual costs for support directly related to their additional needs. This funding will also cover preparatory visits by the sending organisation to carry out risk assessments and ensure participants will be able to equally access and take part in all elements of a Placement. Pre-visits can be for a maximum duration of three days, and funding can be used for both learners and accompanying staff. Pre-visits are not available for any other purpose.

Eligible FE/VET Participants will meet one or more of the following criteria:

- being identified by the school or college that they attend as having special educational needs
- having a disability as defined in the Equality Act 2010

- having a disability as defined in the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) 1995, for Participants from Northern Ireland
- having a disability as defined in the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004

Linguistic support

If the placement will last for longer than 19 days then participants are able to access linguistic support before their placement starts. Linguistic support is provided in form of a financial Grant to FE/ VET Participants (£135 per Participant) to cover expenses such as classroom courses or learning materials for the language used within the host organisation, as well as day-to-day vocabulary in the language of the host country/territory, to ensure Participants will be ready to live and work in a different environment and in a different country/territory.





International partners

Finding international partners to host your learners and developing effective working relationships with them is essential for any FE or VET institution wishing to run successful Turing Scheme Placements. Once you have identified a preferred destination, carefully research and approach potential partner organisations to discuss your needs and see if they are open to collaboration.

You may want to consider contacting your local council about twin towns and cities, utilising local university expertise, contacting cultural organisations and embassies and leveraging any existing relationships your institution may have in your search.

For more guidance on finding international partners you can also [read our five top tips](#).

How to apply

FE and VET institutions can apply for Turing Scheme 2023 to 2024 funding by registering and completing the application form on the [Application Portal](#).

To help you plan and get started on your application [read our guide to giving your Turing Scheme application the best chance of success](#).

Applications for The Turing Scheme 2023 to 2024 close at **4pm on 6 April**.

Fast Facts

More than £36 million

of grants were approved for FE/VET applicants between 2021 and 2022

Successful FE/VET applicants were awarded over £208,000 on average for 2021 to 2022, **rising to more than £277,500 for 2022 to 2023**

65% of applications

from FE/VET providers were successful in the first two years of the Turing Scheme

Funding has been approved for over 16,800 FE/VET learners

from across the UK to participate in placements across the world over the first two years of the Scheme

More than 56% of FE/VET grants approved

in 2021 and 2022 were for participants from disadvantaged backgrounds



Case Studies

DN Colleges, Yorkshire

A group of catering students from Yorkshire are hoping to taste success in their chosen career after gaining valuable knowledge and new skills during a two-week Turing Scheme trip to Saint Lucia.

Visits to Hotel Chocolat and Castries Market were among the cultural experiences on the menu for learners from DN Colleges Group, alongside a culinary tour and work placement sessions, during their time on the tropical island, organised in partnership with The Caribbean Elective.



In addition, the students visited a local farm to learn about all the aspects of agriculture, witnessed a masterclass hosted by Chef Orlando, one of the Caribbean's top chefs, and took part in a competition at the 5-star Sandals Grande Hotel Resort.

The group of 10 students were the first of eight cohorts heading out to Saint Lucia, Finland, Indonesia, and the United States to further their vocational studies during the 2022 to 2023 academic year after DN Colleges Group secured funding through The Turing Scheme.

Comprised of Doncaster College and North Lindsey College, the group was awarded more than £300,000 by the UK government's international education programme to send over 100 students and accompanying staff on the potentially life-changing trips.

“The Turing Scheme is a vehicle for fulfilling this vision by growing international mobility opportunities. This will support young people to develop personally, professionally and academically, and encourage them to achieve their educational and professional potential.”

Dr Barry McCarron, Head of Business Development,
South West College

 [**Read more here**](#)



East Coast College, Great Yarmouth

A group of animal care students from East Anglia have gained firsthand experience of working with big game wildlife after spending two weeks at a South African nature reserve.

Ten learners from East Coast College, which has campuses in Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft, spent time working alongside staff at the 6,000-hectare UmPhafa Private Nature Reserve in KwaZulu Natal.

The trip, which was supported by a £28,000 Turing Scheme grant, saw the youngsters encounter leopards, buffalo, rhinoceroses, wildebeest and hyenas, among others, as they supported crucial species monitoring and conservation activities.

The intensive two-week work placement gave students the opportunity to take part in a wide range of projects such as behavioral observations on game species and camera trapping of elusive nocturnal species.

They also took part in exercises designed to help reserve staff combat the illegal poaching of animals, even playing the part of the criminals in some cases.

“Spending time with the animals in their natural habitat was so exciting as they all have their own uniqueness and place which is critically important for the ecosystem. I have always wanted to pursue a career in this area and now I know what I need to do to achieve this.”

Archie Cohen, Student, East Coast College.

[Read more here](#)



RiSE International, Gloucestershire/London

RiSE International has partnered with South Gloucestershire and Stroud College (SGS) and BSix College in London to send students on potentially life-changing trips to Canada, Greece and Portugal.

The consortium was awarded £748,000 by the UK Government’s Turing Scheme to send 160 students on global work experience placements specific to their chosen vocations during the 2021 to 2022 academic year.

London-based RiSE International is a social enterprise that provides flexible, tailored guidance to vocational colleges and their students to enable them to set up work placements abroad.

The Turing Scheme project will have a particular focus on recruiting students from disadvantaged backgrounds or with special educational needs (SEN), who face multiple barriers to accessing international opportunities.

“The funding for disadvantaged students has been a major help. Some learners struggle to fund purchases such as suitcases. These are simple things that we take for granted, but they just don’t have access to.”

Sara Jones, Lecturer in Health Sciences, Coleg Ceredigion.

[Read more here](#)

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More information

More detailed information about the application process and assessment criteria:

[The Turing Scheme website](#)

[Turing Scheme Programme Guide 2023 to 2024](#)

[The Turing Scheme application guide](#)

Find out more top tips and stories from participating providers:

[Turing Scheme blogs](#)

[Turing Scheme stories](#)

[Turing Scheme YouTube channel](#)