

# FE and VET Q&A

## Responses to questions raised during the live webinar on 23 March 2021.

### Introduction

The questions answered within this document were raised as part of a live webinar that took place on 23 March 2021. The webinar provided an overview of the application process for Turing Scheme funding.

### Question and answers

Question	Answer
After Brexit, can the project be reciprocal and can our organisation welcome a group of students from abroad?	Yes, we encourage any project funded under the Turing Scheme to be reciprocal with partner organisations outside of the UK however, the Turing Scheme will only provide funding for outbound UK participants.
Are Foundation Apprentices eligible to participate in the scheme?	No. Any qualification that is at a HE level must use the HE stream of funding.
Are students studying a Foundation Degree at a VET/FE college eligible to undertake a VET mobility?	No. Any qualification that is at a HE level must use the HE stream of funding.
Are students studying at level 3 eligible if this is leading to a HE qualification?	Yes, as long as the student is studying at level 3 at the time of the placement.
Are the safeguarding requirements for the Turing Scheme stricter? If so, could we justify additional accompanying staff for safeguarding purposes? Under Erasmus+, there was only a small checklist given.	There are safeguarding guidelines under the Turing Scheme which are listed in the programme guide. An applicant must present their plans in the application form, and this is then taken into account during the qualitative assessment.
Are visa costs covered for participants from a disadvantaged background only?	Yes. As per the programme guide, participants from defined disadvantaged backgrounds are eligible for Exceptional Costs, and funding covers costs such as visas. However, we recognise that institutions may identify participants who do not strictly meet our definition of disadvantage but

	<p>have a very strong case for the extra assistance support that disadvantaged students will receive. We urge institutions to make this case clear in their bids as we will allow some discretion where appropriate.</p>
<p>Are we able to send the students to multiple partners?</p>	<p>Yes, you are able to send students to multiple partners in a project.</p>
<p>Are we required to have all partnering host companies to register prior to programme start date?</p>	<p>No. It is only advised to have your host partners in place as early as possible, however this is not compulsory as per the programme guide. Please note however that one of the qualitative criteria used to assess your application is that: 'The application clearly demonstrates the participating UK organisation(s) is already working with international partners or looking to start international relationships with suitable project partners'. Therefore, having some or all host partners selected at application stage will strengthen your application.</p>
<p>As a private company working in international training, we've been impacted over the last 12 months with the covid travel restrictions - this will reflect in our most recent accounts. Will this be taken into consideration on financial checks?</p>	<p>We appreciate your accounts will have been impacted by Covid and this will be case for a number of our applicant organisations. Our primary purpose remains to check that you have stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain activity throughout the period during which the project is being carried out, and decisions will be made accordingly.</p>
<p>When do we need to submit the names of the participants? Once the activity has been approved or as part of the reporting?</p>	<p>Participant names will be required as part of reporting.</p>
<p>Can a HE organisation receive participants if the placement has a strong vocational focus?</p>	<p>Yes, an HE organisation can be a receiving organisation for a FE/VET project if it is relevant to the placement.</p>
<p>Can a higher-level apprentice (Level 4) studying a vocational subject participate on a VET mobility project? Or is this restricted to participants on Level 3 and below courses?</p>	<p>No. Higher apprentices are considered HE learners and therefore are not eligible for FE and VET projects. Higher apprentices project must apply for funding via the HE stream of funding.</p>
<p>Can accompanying persons be split over the mobility period i.e. if 2-week mobility - 2 staff week 1 and 2 staff week 2?</p>	<p>Yes. Multiple accompanying persons can attend a single activity, split into portions. Justification for this method must be provided in the activity narrative, and element of the assessment criteria must be addressed, specifically Value for Money.</p>

<p>Can an intermediary be in multiple applications (delivering project management)?</p>	<p>A mobility consortium can include organisations that provide administrative support to other members of the consortium.</p> <p>The role and obligations of supporting administrative organisations must be formally defined in the application form. All contributions of supporting administrative organisations must comply with the scheme rules. Subcontracting to third parties not identified in the application form is not permitted. If subcontracting rule breaches are identified during a project lifecycle, then funding may be withdrawn.</p>
<p>Can applicants from Northern Ireland start activities earlier than September as academic year differs to England and Wales?</p>	<p>Yes. However, study activities taking place in countries with different academic periods or term dates may begin outside the 2021-22 academic year, but most of the duration must take place within these dates. Activity outside of these dates will not be funded by the Turing Scheme.</p>
<p>Can cost of living allowance be used by organisations to provide the accommodation, board support, etc. or is it to be given direct to the participant to cover the cost of living?</p>	<p>The programme guide states that the funding will be provided to contribute towards the general cost of living for each participant. It does not specify how the funding will be distributed to the participants which can be direct or indirect.</p>
<p>Can participants be expected to pay a part of the activity? And if so, is there a percent guideline of how much they should be paying out of pocket if any?</p>	<p>There is no specific requirement or rule specifying that a participant should or should not pay to participate in a placement.</p>
<p>Can placements take place within the UK due to travel restrictions?</p>	<p>Placements must take place in a non-UK or British Overseas Territories company/school/FE and VET institution.</p>
<p>Can the FE/VET application include all learners in the Academy, from age 11 to 18?</p>	<p>As per the programme guide, there is no minimum or maximum age limit imposed on participants.</p>
<p>Can the lead applicant of a consortium bid also be the receiving organisation of the mobility activity?</p>	<p>No. As per the programme guide Turing Scheme will provide funding for the outward mobility of participants from the UK, and British Overseas Territories only.</p>
<p>Can we change to different host countries within the same distance band once the project has been approved (if, for example, there are covid travel restrictions in the planned destination)?</p>	<p>If your project is successful in obtaining Turing Scheme funding, more information will be provided on how to manage your grant and what changes are permitted. It is envisaged that some flexibility will be allowed for safeguarding reasons if it is unsafe to send participants to a location. As long as the objectives and aims of the project</p>

	<p>remain the same, some changes will be allowed. Please keep in mind that changes in country destination not only affect the travel budget, but also the cost-of-living support rates.</p>
<p>Can we have a group of students with a disability visiting two cities in the USA? We want to take them to study in San Francisco and to New York to the United Nations General Assembly (we have special consultancy status to the UN) for learning on civic participation and policy.</p>	<p>First of all, you would need to ensure the participants are eligible under the programme rules under the FE/VET field, as well as the activity suggested. The complication of the activity proposed is the fact that you would want to visit two cities that are far away, it may be difficult to include this within the schedule of your activity without breaking funding rules. Travel funding itself would not cover these costs, as travel distances are calculated from the departure city to destination city, meaning internal travel during the project would not be covered. However, you may submit under additional support for special educational needs and disabilities.</p>
<p>Can we include our apprentices studying level 3 and level 5 in the Turing Scheme without being a part of a consortium?</p>	<p>Apprentices up to level 3 (included) are eligible participants under the FE and VET field. There is no need to be a consortium to apply for the Turing Scheme, however, your organisation must be considered eligible as a sending organisation in the field of FE and VET. Please revise page 13 of the programme guide.</p>
<p>Can we justify greater travel costs on environmental grounds - e.g., overland into Europe rather than fly?</p>	<p>Funding levels for travel are a contribution to the overall costs. You should explain why you are applying for greater travel costs on environmental reasons and this will be assessed. You should ensure your reasons addresses the key objectives of the scheme.</p>
<p>Can we send a football/sports team to undertake a competitive tour, playing against academy level clubs? This would include coaching, physio, S&amp;C sessions.</p>	<p>No this would not be eligible under the Turing Scheme.</p>
<p>Can we use the fund to support other funded projects? For example, can we just apply for travel expenditure if the accommodation has been provided by another project?</p>	<p>No. Your project cannot be double funded using money from alternative programmes.</p>
<p>Can you apply for prep visits for disadvantaged rather than disabled learners?</p>	<p>No. Pre-mobility visits are only applicable for projects which include SEND students, this is so learning or training locations, as well as accommodation providers, can be risk assessed to ensure they are fully accessible and that the</p>

	learners will be able to equally take part in the project.
Can you apply if you are still in receipt of Erasmus+ funding?	Yes. You are able to apply to the Turing Scheme if you are still part of an active Erasmus+ project. You must ensure that you are not using any Erasmus+ funding on your Turing Scheme project if your application is approved or vice versa.
Can you claim back COVID related costs such as tests required to travel or do you need to manage these from the general costs?	You can use your Organisational Support funding to cover the costs of Covid tests or for disadvantaged groups you can request additional support.
Can you define permanent education can participants be in short courses?	If the FE or VET short course is taking place through colleges or schools, or if it is a government-funded training course, then participants would be classed as eligible under FE and VET guidelines.
Can you send a UK participant to a UK overseas territory or is it considered UK to UK?	No, activity destinations must be outside of the UK and British Overseas Territories.
Can you send students to participate in Euroskills?	Yes. Students on FE and/or VET courses can participate in vocational skills competitions abroad. You should ensure your application addresses the key objectives of the Turing Scheme.
Do all receiving organisations need to be named on the application form? (i.e. is it sufficient to include the main coordinating organisation in the host country, rather than each work placement provider?)	It is encouraged to add the partner organisation (s), if known, at application stage.
Do applicant organisations have to provide nationally certified training / schemes to participants or is an organisation developed training programme to bridge the gap between training and employment allowed in order to qualify under the scheme?	Your organisation should offer a recognised FE/VET training for students. Your company could be eligible however, you must ensure that your participants are eligible (page 14 programme guide), as participants need to be enrolled in recognised UK FE or VET courses and apprentices, or be a recent graduate of a FE or VET provider (within 12 months of graduating), or those not in permanent education or training, who may be re-training or upskilling, if their training is taking place through colleges or schools, or through government funded training.
Erasmus+ had a number of platforms to share project results and meet partners. Will the Turing Scheme be establishing such platforms, particularly for dissemination?	At this point there are no dissemination platforms. If there any new developments, we will share them accordingly.

<p>For centres keen to be involved but who have limited international links, is there support available to develop these to the point that we could organise projects for our students?</p>	<p>Some support is available and you should visit the Turing Scheme website. As the applicant your project will need to have partners abroad to work with, this can be any public or private organisation active in the field of further education or vocational education and training or any public or private organisation active in the labour market or in the fields of education and training. Please review page 13 of the programme guide there are more details of eligible receiving organisations.</p>
<p>For recent VET graduates who have graduated within 12 months how do we prove that the graduate is recent as they will no longer be registered with a VET provider?</p>	<p>Proof of recent graduation will be determined by the qualification certificate date.</p>
<p>Given that many partnerships are based on their reciprocal nature with both partners benefiting equally, can this funding be used alongside other funding for receiving students in the UK.</p>	<p>The funding can only be used for outgoing UK participants and not for incoming participants.</p>
<p>Does a VET organisation have to deliver accredited learning or can they be considered as an applicant if they deliver non-accredited learning and have a strong VET network with apprenticeship providers/FE colleges etc.</p>	<p>A company or other public or private organisation hosting, training or otherwise working with learners and apprentices in FE and VET or an FE college or school active in the field of FE and VET can be applicant, however, when applying for a project you must also ensure that your target group also meets the participant eligibility criteria. Please review our programme guide from page 13 for more details.</p>
<p>How long would you expect the application process to take? When will successful applications be notified or rejected?</p>	<p>The deadline for applications is 7th May, and results are expected to be announced in summer 2021.</p>
<p>How many projects/activities could one organisation run within the scheme?</p>	<p>An organisation may apply for one project per sector, however, they are allowed to make additional applications if they are the lead applicant or partner of a consortium. You can be a part of multiple different consortiums.</p>
<p>If a private company has an overseas entity who will be the receiving organisation can the UK registered company be the lead applicant in a consortium bid?</p>	<p>Yes. Consortium eligibility of having at least one FE/VET college or school must still be met, but are able to send participants to an international branch.</p>
<p>If we are classed as an FE, HE and VET institution, can submit 3 distinct applications. In</p>	<p>No, in this example you can only submit 2 applications, HE and FE/VET. As part of a</p>

<p>addition, as part of a consortium, we can submit another application.</p>	<p>consortium, you may submit another application - please see above answer.</p>
<p>If we apply as a mobility consortium, does it mean that we can only have students who attend the consortium member college? Or can we still have it open to other college learners from other colleges who are not members of the consortium?</p>	<p>You are not restricted to learners being enrolled in the consortium's college or school, however, any other participants would need to meet the eligibility criteria, and it would also be expected that this is explained in your application.</p>
<p>Is it possible to change dates of an activity after submitting the application? e.g., if students can no longer travel on the original dates.</p>	<p>Yes. Changes of this type are permitted in the project lifecycle, but the change would have to be requested and approved by the Delivery Partner.</p>
<p>Is match funding required or will it support 100% of the costs? Will cancellation costs for travel booked be covered by the scheme?</p>	<p>Match funding is not required for the Turing Scheme however, your organisation will be asked to provide detail on all costs at final report stage, including any match funding. There will be a force majeure element of the contracts, however, all successful applicants must have insurance in place.</p>
<p>Is the staff cost of living the same as the students?</p>	<p>Yes. Funding rules for accompanying persons are the same as learners, the only exception being that accompanying persons do not receive organisational support.</p>
<p>We have both FE and VET students. Can we just do one application for them all as they come from one organisation?</p>	<p>Yes, organisations should submit one application per sector, which will cover all placements, both FE and VET, that they wish to have funding awarded for under the Turing Scheme.</p>
<p>We have Erasmus+ KA1 funding through to end of December 2021, can we have a start date of Jan 2022 under the Turing Scheme.</p>	<p>Under the Turing Scheme, all projects will start on 1 September 2021 and end on 31 August 2022, however, activities can start at any time during this window. It is not an issue to have an Erasmus+ project running simultaneously, as long as the funding activities are different and the funding is used for different purposes.</p>
<p>Will participants receive a mandatory post-placement survey to complete?</p>	<p>Yes, you will be required to gather reports from all the participants sent on placement during the project and must submit these to the Delivery Partner.</p>
<p>Will there be a language learning platform for students like OLS?</p>	<p>The Turing Scheme does not envisage a language learning platform. Instead, linguistic support may be requested. Linguistic support refers to language preparation for placements over 19 days. It is provided in the form of a financial grant (£135 per participant) to cover expenses such as classroom</p>

	<p>courses or learning materials for the language used within the host organisation.</p>
<p>Will you require letters of support from partners that we have already worked with previously? How do we find/attract partners from outside of Europe - do you have details of partners across the world? What about the impact of Covid on mobilities taking place?</p>	<p>We do not require letters of support from partners, but you are able to incorporate good feedback within the narrative of your application form to strengthen it.</p> <p>The Turing Scheme does not have a partner finding tool, but would recommend you utilise any ongoing partnerships and to research any desirable organisations abroad.</p> <p>We understand that Covid-19 is likely to have an impact on international travel for the duration of this year and would recommend applicants continue to check FCDO travel advice for the countries they wish to visit. It would be sensible to plan mobilities within months that are more likely for travel to take place.</p>
<p>Would I get less points if I wouldn't include any disadvantageous backgrounds or SEND?</p>	<p>Applications will be reviewed through a qualitative assessment to evaluate the extent to which the application meets the Turing Scheme objectives, and the project meets the award criteria as well as requests for appropriate funding amounts. The application will be scored out of a possible 100 points the scoring will be based on the strength of each section of the application. Please review page 21 of the programme guide to understand more about the scoring process.</p>