



TURING

SCHEME

The UK's global programme
to study and work abroad

Questions from webinars

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Introduction

This guide has been produced to help organisations register and plan their applications for the academic year 2022 to 2023 and is applicable for all three sectors eligible to take part in the Turing Scheme: Higher Education (HE); Further Education (FE) & Vocational Education and Training (VET); and Schools.

To help you to start planning your organisations application you should read this guide in conjunction with the Turing Scheme [Programme Guide](#) as this provides essential information for organisations considering applying for Turing Scheme funding For example, eligibility criteria and qualitative assessment criteria, assessment procedures and formal requirements.

The application portal launched on 31 March 2022. You can then input your application using the online system ahead of the application deadline:

Sector	Application deadline (as of publication date)
Higher Education	4:00pm Friday 29 April 2022
Further Education and Vocation Education and Training	4:00pm Friday 29 April 2022
Schools	4:00pm Friday 29 April 2022

General questions

Do we have to get an offer of acceptance from the host organisation first, or do we just need to apply and then we will be directed to a host organisation in the country we would like to offer placements in?

It is up to each higher education institution that applies for funding to arrange its own overseas hosts and partners for students. You should ensure partnerships are in place in time for students to undertake their placements. Information on host organisations is welcomed, but not required, during the application process.

Capita will not direct you to any organisations in the country you would like to offer placements in.

Will the total score affect how much of the original bid funding amount we receive, or is it either pass/fail? What is the cut off percentage?

Please refer to the Programme Guide from pages 19 onwards which provides more information.

Is the contact email for new applicants the same as for current projects?

Yes, the contact email for all current and new projects is turing-scheme@capita.com

Is feedback available from last year's applications?

Unfortunately, we are not able to provide feedback on applications submitted during the 2021/2022 call for bids window.

Will there be a dedicated telephone help desk in addition to support by email?

The Turing Scheme does not have a dedicated telephone help desk. All enquiries must be submitted via email to turing-scheme@capita.com. You will then be contacted by a member of the Capita team.

When will the new mobility tool be announced?

It has not been possible to transfer the Live Reporting Tool to Capita. Therefore, there will be a new portal to administer mobilities and payments for the Turing Scheme academic year 2022/23.

Is there a plan to increase the budget for 2023/24 and 2024/25?

£110 million has been confirmed for the academic year 2022/23. Budgets for 2023/24 and 2024/25 will be announced in due course.

On the surface, the Turing Scheme for academic year 2022/23 appears to be basically identical. What feedback did the DfE take on board from institutions and practitioners in designing and deciding the framework for Turing 2022/23?

Responding to stakeholder feedback from AY21/22 that the application process was too complex and questions were repetitive, we have streamlined the qualitatively assessed part of the application. We have streamlined questions, reduced repetition and the number of questions in total. We have sought to simplify questions, where possible.

We also received sector feedback that the application window for AY21/22 was too short, and results were not communicated early enough. This year, we opened for applications two weeks earlier, increasing the application window to eight weeks for all sectors. We have shortened our assessment period, which means that we will be able to communicate outcomes earlier than last year.

Application and assessment

Is there a separate grant calculator spreadsheet available?

The application process will determine that total grant available based on the information you provide. The system will also calculate the disbursement value at a participant level.

Will past performance and the amount of funding we have spent in AY2021/22 affect our applications for funds in AY2022/23?

As set out in the Turing Scheme Programme Guide for academic year 2022/23, previous performance of managing Turing Scheme grant money would only be considered if there had been inappropriate management or use of funds. Mobilities that could not be delivered due to Covid-19 travel disruption would not impact on the outcome of any future application.

Higher Education (HE)

In the 2021/2022 academic year of the Turing Scheme, placements with a duration of 2 weeks were eligible due to the effects of COVID-19. Will these shorter durations be available in the 2022/2023 academic year?

As set out in the Programme Guide for 2022/23, HE placements have a minimum duration of four weeks (28 calendar days) and a maximum duration of twelve months.

Is it intended that project durations are going to be cut again, should demand exceed funding available?

In the event that demand exceeds the funding available, a decision will be made as to how to maximise the impact of the funding available. All successful applicants will be treated fairly and the rationale for any budget reductions will be communicated alongside the issuing of results. It should not be assumed that any previous methodology for reducing budgets will be applied to this year's grant funding decisions.

Beneficiaries will have the flexibility to make changes to their approved project plans, including in relation to duration and destination, subject to approval by the Turing Scheme Delivery Partner, throughout the project year to ensure mobilities can be administered in a way that best suits them.

Will partial funding of participants be possible, where appropriate?

Partial funding or zero grant award months are not possible under the Turing Scheme. The only exception is if a participant goes on a mobility where term dates fall outside the eligible period for funding (1st September 2021- 31st August 2022). Whilst in this case the majority of the mobility would have to fall inside the eligible period of funding, and funding is only provided in relation to this period, it is possible for the participant to travel to their Turing Scheme destination outside of the eligible period of funding and for this time to be counted as zero grant award months.

Participants in the scheme will receive funding in line with our published rates. If a provider does not receive all the funding requested, they will need to consider which of the placements they will offer funding towards, within the rules set out in confirmation of their final award amount.

Further Education (FE) and Vocational Education and Training (VET)

Does Turing Scheme funding conflict with other UK Government funds, for example, Skill for Life & Work funding? Is it possible for an organisation which is already receiving Skill for Life & Work funding to also receive Turing Scheme funds?

Only one source of funding should be used. There would be a conflict if Turing Scheme funds were used to pay for assets (e.g., IT equipment) or services (e.g., travel) where a participant is, or expects to be, in receipt of funding provided by another UK Government fund for the same assets or services. If it is found an expense covered by the Turing Scheme has also been funded by another source, the Delivery Partner will seek to recover the Turing Scheme funding.

Participants can 'top up' funding where one source of funding does not meet the full costs of participation in the mobility. For example, if travel is more expensive than the amount of funding provided by the Turing Scheme, Grant Recipients or participants can use funding from another source to cover the additional costs of travel, although this should not exceed the actual travel costs.

Does funding go directly to students or do organisations receive the funding and then have to show how those funds have been distributed to students?

The funding awarded to support the mobilities of learners, such as cost of living and linguistic support, will be paid directly to the applicant organisation, not the learner. You may decide to pass funding on to learners for aspects of the mobility not organised by you. Throughout the project, you will be required to report on the delivery of mobilities; providing details of learners taking part, when funding is requested, and you will have to show, at the closure of your project, how Turing Scheme funds have been spent.

What level of funding would an organisation get for the management of a trip and co-ordination of the students?

Under each project, £315 will be provided per participant for the first 100 participants. From the 101st participant onwards, £180 will be provided per participant. This funding can be used to cover costs such as but not limited to administrative support, promotion for the scheme within your institution, or IT such as licenses for software, if this is appropriate and required to support the scheme. Please see Annex F of the Turing Scheme Programme Guide for full details on organisational support.

Does the funding go to the organisation, which then determines how to spend it?

Organisations, which have secured funding from the Turing Scheme, will receive one payment, at project level, of organisational support funding to cover costs directly linked to the administration and implementation of a placement, before mobilities are due to take place. Funding awarded should be utilised for the purpose it was intended for, for example, cost of living paid per month per learner should be utilised in full by the learner, either by being given to them directly, or by being spent by the Grant Recipient on their behalf to support the learners' sustenance. The same principle applies to other cost categories. If you wish to move funding within your project, change control rules will apply, which are set out within the published Grant Agreement.

Is there the possibility of using universities overseas as partners for VET projects? They can offer aspirational opportunities for FE learners.

The Turing Scheme does not currently allow the possibility of universities being overseas partners for VET projects.

We are a not-for-profit community interest company (CIC) that supports young people through vocational training such as sports leadership, first aid, safeguarding, digital skills etc. Would this categorise us under the VET funding stream, or is there a list of VET training programmes that make an organisation eligible?

If you are a company or other public or private organisation hosting, training or otherwise working with learners and apprentices in FE and VET, and you have a legal entity, then you are eligible to apply. Please see page 11 of the Turing Scheme Programme Guide for full details.

You say the scheme is open to 'any learner' in an eligible FE/VET institution, but we were told last year that only learners on L3 courses were eligible?

We do not differentiate by levels when determining eligibility.

In order to be eligible under the HE funding stream, the participating higher education providers must be officially registered or recognised Degree-Awarding Power HE providers in the UK, and participants must be registered at the provider and enrolled in studies, or have recently graduated from the provider.

This means, even where a FE/VET provider is delivering provision level 4 or above, if the provider and students do not fall into the eligibility criteria of the HE funding stream, then the learners on the courses will only be eligible under the FE/VET stream, subject to meeting the eligibility criteria.

There seems to be a gap in what Turing covers. Do HE learners in an FE setting, for example, fall through the net?

No, FE organisations delivering higher education are able to apply for Turing Scheme funding for HE learners via the HE funding stream, subject to meeting the eligibility criteria.

The Programme Guide for the Turing Scheme AY22/23 sets out that persons accompanying FE or VET learners are eligible to be funded if they are joining abroad for safeguarding purposes. Are accompanying persons eligible to receive the same support as learners?

Accompanying persons or staff are only entitled to receive cost of living and travel cost. Moreover, they are counted within the overall headcount that informs the organisational support that the applying organisation is entitled to.

However, accompanying persons or staff are not eligible to receive any other types of funding that FE/VET participants are eligible for, which includes support for exceptionally expensive travel, exceptional costs, linguistic support and additional support for those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).

Schools

Do previous grant awards have an impact on academic year 2022/23 applications?

No, grant awards for the previous academic year will not have an impact on 2022/23 applications.

Will there be independent assessors or will they be from Capita?

The assessment of applications will be undertaken by a pool of trained independent assessors appointed by the Delivery Partner. The role of the assessors is to provide a fair, impartial and consistent assessment of the applications.

Who is able to submit a consortium bid, i.e. a Local Authority (LA)/non-governmental organisation (NGO)/private organisation, or just a lead school? What constitutes a consortium?

A consortium is an entity working with the applicant/Grant Recipient to deliver the funded mobilities whether in whole or in part (but excludes sub-contractors). To apply for schools projects, your organisation must be registered in the UK or a British overseas territory and either:

- a school providing general, vocational, or technical education on any level from primary school to upper secondary education
- a school consortium applying on behalf of a number of schools, for example, local or regional authorities, school coordinating bodies or a social enterprise or other organisation with a role in the field of school education

Please see Annex D of the Programme Guide for a list of recognised education providers in British Overseas Territories.

Lead Organisations or Coordinating Organisations that form a bidding association/consortium with a group of members/partners must oversee, review, consent, facilitate and submit applications on behalf of mobility consortium members or partners. These can be organisations such as a regional body, local authority, school coordinating body, social enterprise, or multi-academy trust or a school/college which can act as an applicant on behalf of other sending organisations.

Consortium applications must include at least one school or college active in the field of primary to upper secondary education. Coordinating organisations must explain their role, obligations and relationship with the organisations sending pupils in the application form.

Consortium applications are only available to applicants applying to the FE/VET and schools funding streams.

Is there a maximum amount of extra funding we can apply for disadvantaged pupils? Apart from visas, passport, etc., can we include suitable clothes, shoes, a suitcase?

No, there is no maximum that an applicant can apply for. However, the Delivery Partner may query the basis of your assessment of funding required for exceptional costs. Yes, apart from costs of visas or passports, we would also cover the cost of suitable clothes, shoes or a suitcase, should you assess that this is required by your pupils in order to take part in the placement.

Can we move funding from Organisational Support money to support specific trips, to enable pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds to participate, widen access and lowering barriers? There is quite a lot that will not be covered by the funding, and we would like to offer the trips as cheaply as possible if not free of charge.

Yes, it will be possible to move Organisational Support funding to increase amounts of funding available under other cost categories, such as exceptional costs or SEND support.

Any movement of funding from one cost category to another will be subject to change control rules, which will be published as part of the Grant Agreement.

You should note that if Organisational Support funding is moved to increase the number of participants in a mobility, this will not lead to an increase of Organisational Support awarded for the project.

Can schools book the whole mobility through an external company to cover accommodation and travel etc.?

Yes, you can utilise the services of an external company to book accommodation and travel.

Please note travel disruption such as having to cancel travel arrangements at short notice due to COVID-19 should be covered by the provider's or participant's insurance, and we encourage you to satisfy yourself that you are able to recover your monies from the external company should travel be cancelled.

Are we able to provide additional financial support to teachers and pupils from our Organisational Support funding, if we think it is appropriate?

Yes. Provided you are using your Organisational Support funding in support of the project, you are able to use it to provide additional support within your budget for participants and accompanying staff or find economies of scale, such as negotiating free or reduced cost flights for teachers and using this to support participants.

Any movement of funding from one cost category to another will be subject to change control rules, which will be published as part of the Grant Agreement. You should note that if Organisational Support funding is moved to increase the number of participants in a mobility, this will not lead to an increase of Organisational Support awarded for the project.

The Programme Guide for the Turing Scheme AY22/23 sets out that staff accompanying pupils are eligible to be funded if they are joining abroad for safeguarding purposes. Are accompanying persons eligible to receive the same support as learners?

Accompanying staff are only entitled to receive cost of living and travel costs. Moreover, they are counted within the overall headcount that informs the organisational support that the applying organisation is entitled to.

Accompanying staff are not eligible to receive any other types of funding that pupils are eligible for, for example, support for exceptionally expensive travel, exceptional costs and additional support for those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).

Is the application route still split by level, for example, L2 and below schools application, L3 FE/VET application and L4 and above HE application?

Yes, you should make a separate application for each area of provision that you wish to undertake placements in.

Please note, eligibility under each funding stream is not defined by levels but by eligible provider type, with eligible participants under each funding stream.

Can you confirm whether trips to multiple organisations at a given destination/locality will be permissible, as opposed to being hosted by just one?

Yes, it is permissible to undertake placements at multiple organisations in the same destination county.

Can you define 'Upper Secondary'?

Upper Secondary refers to schools providing education up to the age of 18.