Turing AI Fellowships Webinar

27 November 2019
Before we start

• Please ask questions at any point using the Q&A function

• The webinar will be recorded for internal use only

• The slides and an FAQ document will be added to both call web pages
Content

1 Programme aims

2 Turing AI Acceleration Fellowships

3 Turing AI World-Leading Researcher Fellowships

4 Questions
Turing AI Fellowship programme aims
Background

- UK faces a brain drain due to significant international and industrial investment in AI

- Hall and Presenti Review ‘Growing the Artificial Intelligence Industry in the UK’ in 2017

- Up to £50M committed to in 2018 Budget.
Turing AI Fellowships

- Programme budget £46 million

- Wave 1 £8.5M, led by the Alan Turing Institute
  - Five fellows announced on 24 October 2019

- Wave 2 £37.5M, being led by EPSRC, on behalf of UKRI
  - Turing AI Acceleration Fellowships
  - Turing AI World-Leading Researcher Fellowships
Programme aims

- Attract, retain and develop the best and brightest researchers in AI internationally
- Build **new** capability and capacity in AI
- Enable new models of collaboration and flexible career paths across sectors
- Integrate consideration of AI adoption into AI research activities
Ambition for fellowship cohort

- Final cohort will include international recruits, but potentially also researchers currently based in the UK
- From a diversity of research and career backgrounds
- Will be leaders in the broadest sense
  - Growing capability and capacity
  - Collaborating across disciplines and with industry and other stakeholders
  - Acting as ambassadors for AI to the public and policy makers
Aim is to support world-leading AI researchers

• Majority of the research should focus on addressing methodological and theoretical challenges in AI

• May be driven by real-world challenges

• **Not** about applying established AI methods to new areas
Diversity

- Enable greater diversity of thought and approach in AI
- Key to the development of a sustainable AI ecosystem
- Considered broadly – backgrounds, career paths, as well as protected characteristics
Stakeholder collaboration

• Significant stakeholder collaboration and leverage expected

• Build mutually beneficial two-way relationships

• Enable career mobility

• Encourage greater porosity across sectors

• Nature and level of collaboration should be appropriate for research programme proposed
Turing AI Acceleration Fellowships
Turing AI Acceleration Fellowships

- £18M to fund 10-15 fellows for up to 5 years starting by 1 January 2021
- Accelerate the careers of high potential researchers to enable them to become world-leading researchers
- Ambitious, novel and creative research – Strong emphasis on creativity of ideas, thought and approach
- Collaborative relationships – Enable new models of collaboration across sectors
Turing AI Acceleration Fellowships

Career stage

• This fellowship will enable high potential researchers to become a world-leader in AI by the end of their fellowship

• Applicants should have suitable experience and the potential to meet this objective

• No person specification as we are seeking fellows from a diversity of backgrounds
Turing AI Acceleration Fellowships

• Host organisations are capped at four applications

• Must report on their inclusive approach to candidate selection and diversity by 04 Feb 2020

• Selection process should considered diversity broadly – backgrounds, career paths, as well as protected characteristics
Questions?
Turing AI World-Leading Researcher Fellowships
Turing AI World-Leading Researcher Fellowships

• £18M to fund a small number of sizeable awards (£3-5 million) for up to 5 years starting by 1 April 2021

• Centres of excellence – Build new capability and capacity in strategically important areas of AI research

• International recruitment and retention of world-leading researchers

• Outline proposal should be led by the host organisation
Questions?
Preparing your proposal

• Read the call document from start to end
• Talk to your host organisation early
• Engage with potential collaborators early, seek their input
• Keep in mind the expectations of fellows and the assessment criteria
• Think outside the box!
Next steps

• Turing AI World-Leading Researcher Fellowships
  • Call for outlines closes 16:00 on 02 April 2020
  • Deadline for invited full proposals will be 16:00 on 23 July 2020

• Turing AI Acceleration Fellowships
  • Selection process Smart Survey closes at 16.00 on 04 February 2020
  • Call for outlines closes 16:00 on 18 February 2020
  • Deadline for invited full proposals will be 16:00 on 21 May 2020
Next steps

Further questions:

AI.Robotics@epsrc.ukri.org
Vivienne.Blackstone@epsrc.ukri.org or Liam.Boyle@epsrc.ukri.org
Deadline for Outlines 16:00 02/04
Outline call opens 14/11
Pre-announcement 24/10

Outline call opens 24/10
Smart Survey selection process deadline 04/02

Deadline for Outlines 16:00 18/02
Outline panel w/c 23/03*

Outline panel deadline 16:00 21/05
Full Proposal deadline 16:00 07/09*

Full proposal interview w/c 07/09*
Full Proposal interview w/c 07/09*

Interview panel w/c 18/05*

Latest start date 01/04

* This may be subject to change
** Postal Peer Review