



HDR UK-Turing Wellcome PhD Programme in Health Data Science Application Information 2020

Summary

This four-year programme in health data science is led by Health Data Research UK and supported by the Wellcome Trust. It includes one year of foundational training followed by a three-year thesis project. The programme is a collaboration between Health Data Research UK, The Alan Turing Institute and seven partner universities; the universities of Birmingham, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Manchester, Oxford, University College London and Queen’s University Belfast.

Contents

Summary	1
About the Programme	2
Year 1: Foundation Training	2
Year 2-4: Research Project	2
Duration and location.....	3
Award.....	3
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.....	4
Eligibility and assessment criteria.....	5
Eligibility criteria.....	5
Assessment criteria	5
Application Process	6
Timeline.....	6
How to Apply	6
Assessment process	6
Further information.....	6

This document provides guidance for applicants and details of how to apply. We also recommend that you review our Frequently Asked Questions.

About the Programme

This four-year funded doctoral programme provides an in-depth training for graduates interested in bringing their numerical and computational skills to health data science.

All studentships are taken in partnership with a home university, which will be the awarding body for the doctorate degree, where the student will be registered. The programme includes an initial year of foundation training followed by a three-year research project.

Year 1: Foundation Training

The foundation year will include a series of training events intended to provide students with knowledge and deep insight into the activities of HDR UK and Turing researchers. These events will enable an informed decision of PhD research project and supervision team for Years 2-4. Throughout the foundation year the student will be allocated a personal tutor at their home university to support and guide development.

The foundation year will focus on four major activities:

- The **Common Core** – a series of in-person and digitally delivered courses designed to introduce our students to the fundamental concepts and methods of mathematical, computational, biological and health data investigation.
- **HDR UK Immersions** - a series of week-long workshops, held at our partner universities around the UK, to introduce students to the major challenges being tackled by health data researchers. Immersions will enable students to explore possible PhD projects in discussion with potential supervisors.
- Turing **Sprints** – a series of hackathon-type events intended to allow students to tackle a real-world data challenge whilst simultaneously providing an opportunity for the development of teamworking skills.
- Personal and Cohort **Development** – the challenges of working in complex health data projects across institutions and sectors can be a daunting task for early career researchers. Our students will be able to draw upon the expertise, experience and advice of our academic, NHS and industry partners to develop the collaboration and leadership skills that will support them to drive forward the ambitious projects that they intend to pursue.

Year 2-4: Research Project

Each student will select a three-year research project at the end of the foundation year. Projects could be proposed by students or selected from a list of proposals by potential supervisors. We strongly encourage joint supervision teams covering a range of skills and backgrounds. As supervisors may be from any of our partner universities, some

project choices may require students to transfer their registration to a different partner university at the end of their first year, subject to approval by the Programme Directors.

Duration and location

Location

Students will be registered and based at one of our seven partner universities:

- University of Birmingham
- University of Cambridge
- University of Edinburgh
- University of Manchester
- University of Oxford
- University College London
- Queen's University Belfast

As this is a national programme, studentship awards will be spread across our partner universities. Students will be able to indicate in which universities they are interested on the application form as well as providing any additional relevant information to their choice e.g. caring responsibilities or personal circumstances. A subset of awards will be available only at selected universities.

During the foundational training year students will attend training events at our partner universities and institutions around the UK. Most of these will be residential, meaning that students will spend a significant period away from their home university.

The programme will support students with accommodation and travel expenses during residential requirements. For more details please see our FAQs.

Start date and duration

The first cohort will begin their studies in October 2020. This is a four-year programme.

Full time/ part time

Studentships are available on a full time or mixed mode basis. For more details please see our FAQs.

Award

Studentships awarded for this programme include the following support:

- Tax free student stipend (Year 1 rates of £19,919 for those based outside London and £22,278 for those based in London, with increases each year).
- PhD registration fees at the UK/EU student rate and college fees where required

- Research expenses
- Transferable skills training
- Travel costs, including registration fees and childcare or any other caring responsibility cost
- Transition costs at the end of the studentship to help you move to the next stage of your career

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Our programme is fully committed to creating a diverse and inclusive research culture. We welcome applications from all applicants and in particular those under-represented in STEM subjects and academia.

In all aspects of the PhD programme, we will:

- seek to understand the challenges and barriers to equality in order to eliminate discrimination, creating an environment where differences are valued;
- promote a culture of inclusion, recognising and celebrating difference and acknowledging the benefits achieved by diversity of thought and experience;
- create a safe, non-judgemental space where we can discuss arising issues relating to equality, diversity and inclusion and support one another to understand and acknowledge a range of perspectives;
- embed equality, diversity and inclusion across all levels of the programme and in everything that we do;
- educate our community and raise awareness in all areas relating to equality, diversity and inclusion ensuring our commitment to EDI is understood by all.

As part of this commitment we recognise that there may be individual circumstances that we need to be aware of. We aim to accommodate specific needs and personal circumstances, but are reliant on applicants sharing this information with us

To discuss an adjustment to the application process please contact our team directly at academic-recruitment@turing.ac.uk or on +44 (0)20 3862 3345. There is also a section on the application form where applicants may make us aware of individual circumstances.

You may already know what adjustments you require or may like to have a confidential discussion around your options. Further information relating to communicating your requirements can be found in the Frequently Asked Questions.

We will treat any information you disclose to us as sensitive and will handle it in line with the Data Protection Act 2018. You find out more information about how we handle your personal data in our Transparency notice.

Eligibility and assessment criteria

Eligibility criteria

To be eligible to apply for this programme applicants should meet one of the following criteria:

- Hold or expect to hold a UK bachelor's degree of at least an upper second class in a discipline relevant to quantitative science (or equivalent qualification for EU and overseas applicants); or
- Hold a bachelor's degree of any outcome and be able to demonstrate their suitability through additional qualifications in a discipline relevant to quantitative science. (e.g. a master's degree) or research experience.

To be accepted, applicants will also need to meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Successful admission to one of our partner universities. Students will be expected to meet the admissions, progression and training requirements of that department and university (students do not need to hold the offer at the point of application).
- At least two satisfactory academic or relevant work placement/employment references.
- Students will need to provide acceptable proof of legal right to study in the UK or ability to satisfy the current requirements of UK Visa and Immigration.

Assessment criteria

We are looking for applicants who meet the following criteria:

Essential:

- Possesses expertise in one or more areas of the mathematical, data and/or computational sciences.
- Demonstrates a desire to develop and apply their quantitative skills in a health data science setting.
- Demonstrates an interest in working collaboratively at the intersection of data science and life sciences.
- Demonstrates that they are capable of being highly self-motivated, resilient and able to manage their own time and workload.
- Demonstrates the ability to develop strong communication skills and aspires to develop these across a broad audience.

Desirable:

- Demonstrates awareness of the ethical and societal considerations around conducting research with health data.
- Possesses prior relevant research experience in data science.

Application Process

Timeline

Application stage	Key Dates
Applications open	18 th November
Applications close	7th January
Interviews	12 th February in London 13 th February in Manchester
Outcomes communicated	By 21 st February

How to Apply

Applicants apply through our [Flexigrant application system](#). The application form will ask for details of your quantitative experience and why you are interested in applying to the programme. For more details about what is asked for on the application form please see the FAQs.

You will also need to submit the following:

- Details of two referees (who will be invited to submit a reference through the system)

The deadline for applications is 7th January 2019 at 12:00pm GMT.

Applicants must also separately apply to the partner university they wish to attend, and we advise checking local application deadlines. All offers will be conditional on applicants gaining admission to the relevant partner university. For more details please see the FAQs.

Assessment process

Applications will first be checked for eligibility with eligible applications being reviewed by academics from our partner universities. Successful applicants will be invited to the final stage of the assessment process which is an interview in either London, Manchester or via remote video conferencing.

HDR UK reserves the right to reject applicants who do not meet the criteria at any stage. Due to the large number of applications anticipated it will not be possible to provide feedback for applicants not invited to interview.

Further information

For further information please see our FAQs.

Questions can be emailed to academic-recruitment@turing.ac.uk or can be discussed by phoning +44 (0) 203 862 3345.