

Turing Scheme Funding

Guidance Notes 2021/22

Written by Nina Langlie, International Mobility Manager

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# OVERVIEW

* 1. The Turing Scheme provides financial support to home and international full-time and part-time undergraduate and postgraduate student students who participate in structured study and work abroad placements as part of their St Mary’s degree.
  2. Students do not need to repay any funds awarded unless the duration or destination of their mobility changes.
  3. All students who participate in eligible study and work placements abroad are encouraged to apply for funding. Students in widening access groups (see definition in Section 5) are eligible for additional funding.

# GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

* 1. Applicants must:
     + be a current registered student at St Mary’s University
     + be enrolled in any undergraduate, PGCE or postgraduate course during the mobility period.
     + be participating in an international work or study mobility that is one to twelve months in duration
     + meet the eligibility requirements to participate in their chosen Study Abroad programme
     + be enrolled full-time in any undergraduate course in order to participate in the Semester Abroad programme
     + gain approval for the international placement from the St Mary’s Study Abroad Office and their Course Lead before applying for funding
     + not receive Erasmus funding for the duration of the mobility covered by Turing Scheme funding
  2. Turing Scheme funding is available to both home and international students participating in international work and study placements.
  3. If a student withdraws from their course or studies have been suspended, they are not eligible to apply for or receive any funding from the Turing Scheme.
  4. If a student’s mobility is cancelled for any reason before the mobility period, the student is not eligible to apply for or receive any funding from the Turing Scheme. Exceptions may be made for non-refundable travel-related costs already incurred by members of widening access groups, such as passport or visa fees, at the discretion of the Study Abroad Office.
  5. Students may only apply for a Turing award once throughout the academic year unless there has been an unexpected change of circumstances that has resulted in a change to their mobility.
  6. Students in receipt of Turing awards are required to attend predeparture and post-mobility sessions and submit all documents and surveys as requested by the Study Abroad Office (i.e. surveys, travel readiness forms, risk assessment, learning agreement, transcripts, etc.).

# TURING SCHEME AWARDS

* 1. When a completed application form with the relevant evidence is received it will be assessed by a member of the Study Abroad team. All complete applications will be assessed for a standard award. Students meeting one or more criteria for the widening access groups will receive a priority award. Standard and priority awards do not have to be repaid.
  2. Students can only apply for a Turing Scheme award if their international mobility has been approved by the Study Abroad team.
  3. Turing awards, including Standard, Priority and SEND support, will be in addition to any funding that students may already receive or qualify for from student finance or other sources, except Erasmus+ grants.

# STANDARD AWARDS

* 1. Under the Turing Scheme, St Mary’s will provide students with awards to help cover the cost of living for eligible international study and work placements as detailed in this document.
  2. All students participating in eligible study and work placements abroad may receive standard awards outlined below. Students in widening access groups outlined in Section 5 may receive additional funding detailed in Sections 6 and 7.
  3. An amount of funding will be provided to go towards the general cost of living for each participant. This will vary depending on destination country.
     + Destination countries are grouped into three categories: Group 1 (high cost of living), Group 2 (medium cost of living), Group 3 (lower cost of living). The rates that will be provided have been outlined below.
     + The following countries are Group 1: Australia, Canada and United States of America. To find details of which countries are in each group, visit [the cost of living groups page](https://www.turing-scheme.org.uk/funding-opportunities/cost-of-living-groups/).
  4. Students participating in eligible mobilities for over eight weeks will receive the short-term cost of living rate for the first two months and the long-term rate from month three onwards. The grant rates are:

**For placements lasting between four and eight weeks:**

To Group 1 destinations: £136 per week

To Group 2 and 3 destinations: £120 per week

**For placements lasting over eight weeks:**

To Group 1 destinations: £380 per month

To Group 2 and 3 destinations: £335 per month

# WIDENING ACCESS GROUPS

* 1. The University is committed to ensuring that the full range of experiences and opportunities are accessible to a wide range of students, particularly those from backgrounds that are traditionally underrepresented in HE, students who may have experienced disadvantage, and students whose economic circumstances may be acting as a barrier to participation.
  2. To this end, students in the following widening access groups are eligible for additional funding in line with the Turing Scheme grant rates in Section 6. More information can be found on the Turing Scheme’s Widening Access page [here](https://www.turing-scheme.org.uk/about/widening-access/).
  3. In line with St Mary’s Access Participation Plan and Turing Scheme guidelines, priority will be given to the following groups of students:
     + Students from low income or low socioeconomic backgrounds, including those with a household income of less than £25,000 or equivalent.
     + Students who receive Universal Credit or income-related benefits because they are financially supporting themselves or financially supporting themselves and someone who is dependent on them and living with them, such as a child or partner.
     + Students whose parents did not attend university.
     + Mature students (Defined as being 21+ when starting their undergraduate course)
     + Students from black, Asian, Middle Eastern (BAME) and other ethnic minority backgrounds (i.e. Gypsy, Roma and Traveller)
     + Students who are homeless or estranged from their families
     + Students who are care experienced or care leavers. (Defined as being under the age of 25 at the start of their course and having been in Local Authority care for three months or more since the age of 14 years.)
     + Students with caring responsibilities. (See definitions [here](https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/individual-needs/students-caring-responsibilities).)
     + Students who are refugees or asylum seekers.
     + Students with a disability (See Section 7 for details about SEND funding.)

# PRIORITY AWARDS

* 1. Participants from widening access groups on eligible placements will receive a higher cost of living rate, depending on destination country. (See 4.3 for information about Groups):
  2. Students from widening access groups participating in mobilities for over eight weeks will receive the short-term cost of living rate for the first two months and the long-term rate from month three onwards.

**For placements lasting between four and eight weeks:**

To Group 1 destinations: £163.50 per week

To Group 2 and 3 destinations: £147.50 per week

**For placements lasting over eight weeks:**

To Group 1 destinations: £490 per month

To Group 2 and 3 destinations: £445 per month

* 1. An amount of funding will be provided to go towards the direct costs of travel for HE participants from a widening access background. This will be dependent on distance between the home and destination organisation and will support the cost of the round trip, as outlined below:
     + 10 to 99km: £20
     + 100 to 499km: £165
     + 500 to 1,999km: £250
     + 2,000 to 2,999km: £325
     + 3,000 to 3,999km: £480
     + 4,000 to 7,999km: £745
     + 8,000 to 12,000km: £905
     + 12,000km+: £1,360
  2. Additional financial assistance towards expensive travel may be granted by exception. If the original amount provided does not cover at least 70% of the actual costs, up to 80% of the actual costs will instead be covered.
  3. Participants will also receive funding to cover actual costs for additional travel expenses, including costs of visas, passports, and health insurance. This is crucial as travel related expenses can often be a deterrent to potential participants.

# FUNDING FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND)

* 1. For participants with SEND, the scheme will fund up to 100% of actual costs for support directly related to their additional needs. Participants must provide documentation of additional costs to be covered by this funding.
  2. This funding may 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 students and accompanying staff. Pre-visits are not available for any other purpose.

# HOW TO COMPLETE THE TURING SCHEME APPLICATION FORM

* 1. Please answer all questions truthfully, fully and accurately. If you have any doubt about how to complete the form, contact Nina Langlie in the Study Abroad Office – [goabroad@stmarys.ac.uk](mailto:goabroad@stmarys.ac.uk). Incomplete forms with missing information will not be accepted. Please ensure you follow the guidance.

# DECISIONS AND PAYMENTS

* 1. Applications will ordinarily be assessed, decisions communicated, and within four working weeks of receipt of the complete application form.
  2. Payments will only be made up to four weeks before the first day of your mobility.
  3. Students will be advised of the outcome of the application and award amount by email.
  4. Awards are paid in one instalment at the beginning of a mobility.

# QUERIES

* 1. Once you have been notified of the outcome of your application, if you have a query, you should email Nina Langlie in the Study Abroad team at [goabroad@stmarys.ac.uk](mailto:goabroad@stmarys.ac.uk)
  2. If you are dissatisfied with the outcome, send an email to Nina Langlie giving the reasons you are not satisfied with the outcome and providing additional details about your situation if necessary. Your application will have a secondary review and you will be notified of the decision by email.