

EPSRC AI ICURE Engage - January 2027
EGJAN27AI Turing & CDTs Focused
Thursday 14th January to Tuesday 2nd February 2027
KEY DATES AND EXPECTATIONS**

Thursday 10th September 2026 12:00-13:00	Information Session REGISTER via Eventbrite
Thursday 29th October 2026	Applications open
Thursday 10th December 2026 23:59	Applications close
By close of day Friday 18th December 2026	Notification of results sent to applicants
Programme Outline	
2 Day Bootcamp: Thursday 14th and Friday 15th January 2027 (09:00-16:00) Session 1: Tuesday 19th January 2027 – 12.30-14.00 Session 2: Tuesday 26th January 2027– 12.30-14.00 Session 3: Tuesday 2nd February 2027– 12.30-14.00 All sessions are scheduled for 90 minutes.	
- The research student/technician will be expected to attend all sessions scheduled above and should hold these dates in their diary when applying. - To fully benefit from the programme, you should allocate approximately half a day of your own time in weeks 2-4 of the programme. - Technology Transfer Representatives are also welcome to attend bootcamp and sessions, but it is not obligatory.	

** Timetable subject to change.

Please note that this opportunity forms part of a pilot programme with select UK Research Councils to gauge interest and test the market, EPSRC is involved with this programme. Beyond this pilot, a range of ICURE programmes operate throughout the year, offering additional routes for participation and there is no guarantee that EPSRC will be directly involved in future programme iterations.

Application Process

Before applying, we advise you to look at the application template to understand what information is required. Please complete the application form clearly and concisely. Sections with * must be completed. Before submitting your application, please ensure both your superior and, if possible, your Technology Transfer Office (TTO) is aware and supportive of your application and therefore programme attendance.

What is EPSRC AI ICURE Engage?

EPSRC AI ICURE Engage is a 4-week, part-time programme for those projects directly linked to the [Turing Fellowships](#) and / or the AI CDTs, to be delivered by the SETsquared Partnership, and tailored for researchers and technicians of the above disciplines. This programme aims to identify potential beneficiaries and users of academic research, introduce participants to commercialisation tools, and foster entrepreneurship.

Innovate UK's ICURE (Innovation to Commercialisation of University Research) Programme is a nationwide programme which supports students and researchers to explore the commercial applications and potential impacts of their research. For further information on ICURE visit: <https://iuk-business-connect.org.uk/programme/icure/>

UKRI Pathway

Through 2026/27, Innovate UK ICURE is working more closely with UKRI councils to bring the programme directly into the research communities they support. The UKRI council pathways initiative is delivered via the same ICURE Engage, Discover, Explore and Exploit stages, but the cohorts, examples, networks and onward routes are shaped around the research priorities of the partner council. The aim is that researchers attached to a UKRI-funded environment experience ICURE as part of their own sector, with the programme shaped around the work they are already doing.

The practical implication is that ICURE is being actively built into the research environment around you, as a researcher or technician. There are low-commitment entry points you can take without stepping away from your current work. ICURE Engage is a four-week part-time introduction with no funding attached and no business idea required. The programme does not require you to know in advance whether your work has a commercial future.

The Turing AI Fellowships are a £46 million initiative created as part of the [AI Sector Deal's](#) ambitious skills and talent package aimed at retaining, attracting and developing the best and brightest AI international researchers. Turing AI Fellows will undertake world leading creative and innovative AI research, working in collaboration with partners from other sectors to accelerate the impact of their research.

The UKRI AI Centres for Doctoral Training (CDTs) are training a new generation of PhD students developing novel AI methodology and using AI technology in areas such as improving healthcare, tackling climate change and creating new commercial opportunities. Starting in 2019 and currently due to run until 2032, the programme will train nearly 2000 students in its lifetime. EPSRC has also funded CDTs relevant to AI.

Programme Content - What's Included?

- 2 Day online training bootcamp covering:
 - Entrepreneurial Thinking
 - The Language of Business
 - Emotional Resilience and Wellbeing
 - Introduction to Verbal Business Card and Value Proposition
 - Impact and marketing testing online
- 3 weekly sessions covering:
 - Value Proposition and your market
 - Testing your Value Proposition
 - Your video reflecting your learning.

All programme materials have been aligned with the [EntreComp model](#).

ICURE Engage provides a route towards other ICURE Programmes.

(Please note ICURE Discover and ICURE Explore programmes will require their own application, there is no automatic entry if ICURE Engage is completed).

Why Attend?

Past participants say that having dedicated time to spend understanding what commercialisation of research means has dramatically changed their perspective on their research, ideas, and innovations. The programme provides the space and opportunity to consider research impact, commercialisation, and entrepreneurship.

Who is eligible?

- Please note that this programme is only open for those projects directly linked to the [Turing Fellowships](#) and / or the AI CDTs. Applications will be accepted from:
 - Any Turing AI Fellows – past or present
 - Any AI CDT academics, students and technicians
 - Academics working with/alongside a Turing Fellow, but the application must be supported by that Fellow.

The EPSRC AI ICURe Engage programme is open to researchers at all levels of seniority, technicians and students from all disciplines undertaking master's degrees, PhDs, and Post-Docs, based at universities and independent research organisations (IROs) across the UK and who are interested in entrepreneurship. This opportunity is available regardless of whether you already have an innovative idea, as the programme introduces you to ICURe and provides the space and opportunity to think about entrepreneurship differently.

Your course of study, your idea and/or your research MUST be directly related to [Turing Fellowships](#) and / or the AI CDTs.

We also welcome applications from individuals in:

- Universities who have not participated in the ICURe programme.
- Universities who do not receive HEIF funding.
- Under-represented groups including women, people of colour, those living with disabilities and those from the LGBTQI+ communities.
- Approved public sector research enterprises (PSREs).

We are committed to supporting Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and welcome applications from anyone who is eligible.

How do I apply?

- The online application form will ask a series of questions about you and your research project.
- There is a limited number of spaces on each Cohort, but we try to provide support as many applications as possible.
- The application form may be accessed from the links on this website.

If you have any further questions, please direct them to icure@setsquared.co.uk or use the contact form via this website.