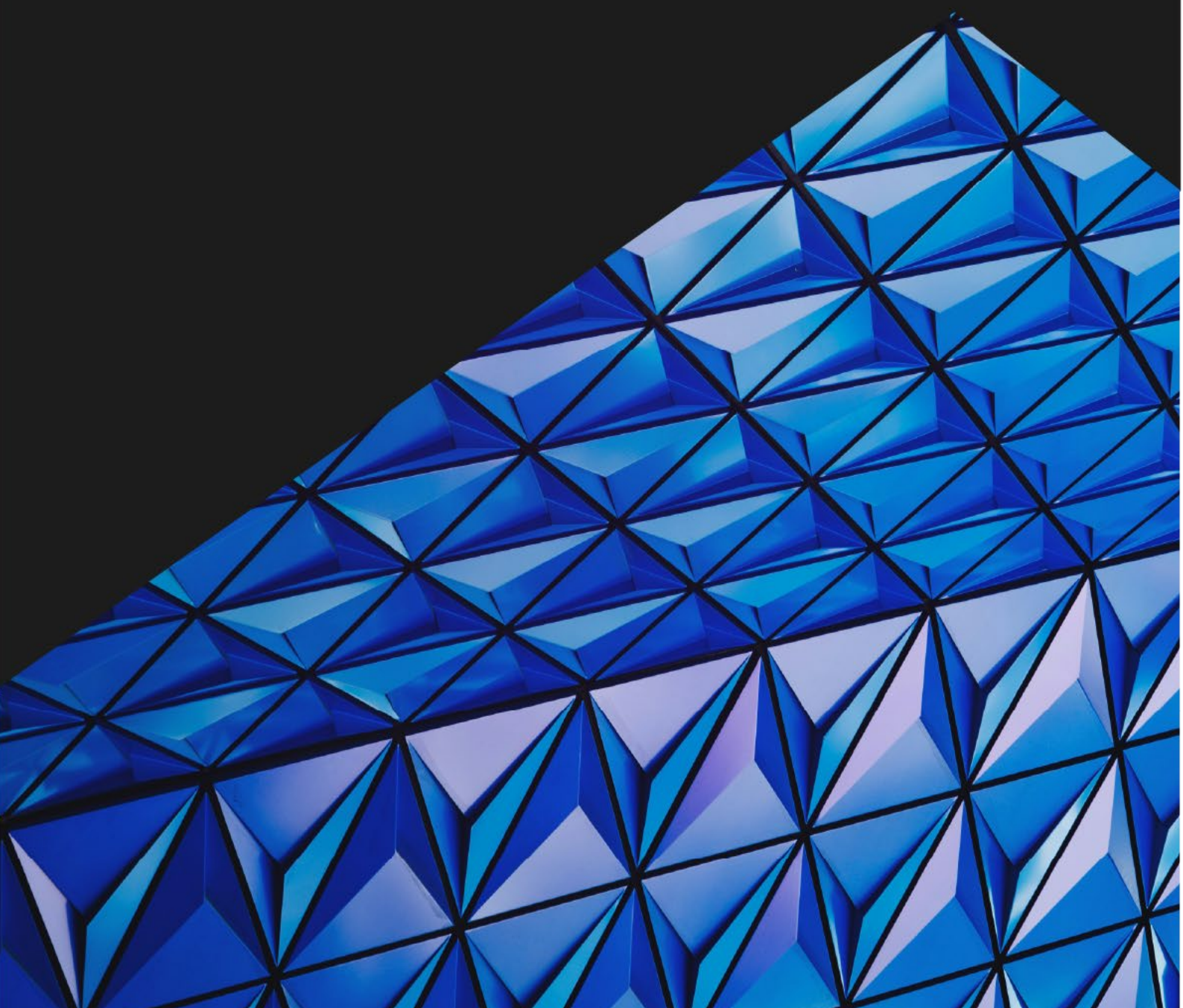


**The
Alan Turing
Institute**

Chief Scientific Officer

Candidate Information
Pack



The Alan Turing Institute

Welcome

I'm delighted you are considering joining the Alan Turing Institute as our Chief Scientific Officer.

We've got an incredible future as the UK's national institute for AI and data science, helping the country take advantage of AI, at a moment when once imagined breakthroughs are becoming reality. You can feel the pace. You can see what is at stake for us in a turbulent world.

One person who dared to imagine the possibilities of this new world was the man in whose honour we were established – Alan Turing.

Turing is a hero for all of us at the Institute. He did brilliant foundational research; he turned that research into practical capability; he never denied who he was – a gay man at a time when prejudice was the norm; and he knew what doing science in the service of the nation meant. He also proved something else: even one of the smartest people in the modern world needed a high-performing team around him to drive breakthroughs in computing, cryptography, mathematics and machine intelligence.

You will be building on Alan's legacy, enabling us to turn the UK's best AI and data science research in capabilities which solve the nation's most pressing resilience challenges. Our focus is on a small number of high-impact programmes related to UK national resilience. You will be helping to shape these and set ambitious goals. The Turing works on systems-level problems which no individual university or private company would tackle.

You will be putting the Turing right at the centre of national thinking on AI – and taking advantage of our unique ability to convene across the UK's amazing science base, national stakeholders, and an ecosystem of AI spinouts and SMEs. You will bring pace, focus, and ambition.



Dr George Williamson
CMG

Chief Executive Officer

About the opportunity

The Alan Turing Institute is seeking a leading AI scientist to become its Chief Scientific Officer.

This is a rare opportunity to shape the future of artificial intelligence and data science at a moment when advances in AI are transforming economies, public services, national security and society. As the UK's national institute for AI and data science, the Turing plays a unique role in ensuring that the UK remains at the forefront of these developments and can harness them to strengthen national resilience, including our work on national security and defence.

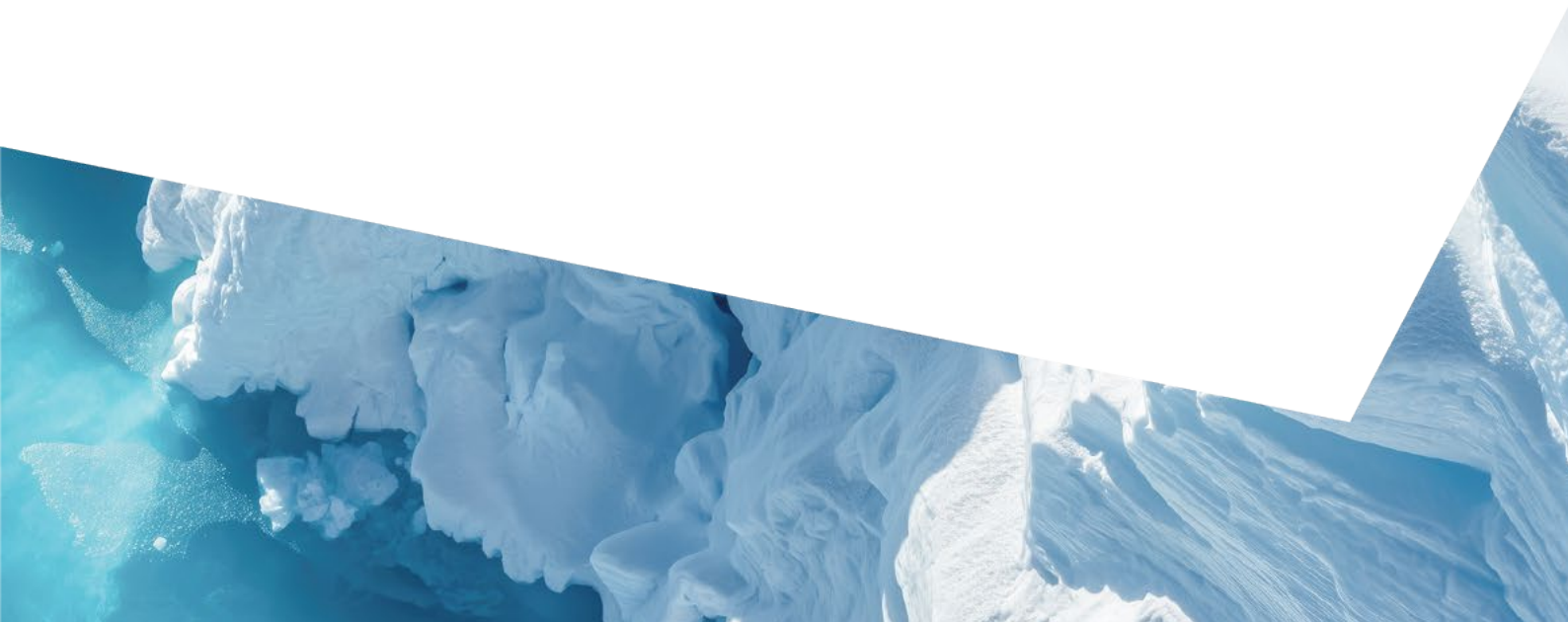
The Chief Scientific Officer will provide the scientific leadership that underpins this ambition. They will shape the Institute's scientific direction, guide its research priorities, build world-class capability and help define how AI can address some of the UK's most important resilience challenges.

We are seeking a scientist of international standing who combines exceptional intellectual credibility with the ability to lead people, influence policy, build partnerships and direct large-scale research activity.

As a member of the Executive Team, the Chief Scientific Officer will help shape the future of both the Institute and the UK's AI ecosystem. The CSO reports to the Chief Executive Officer.

Our Mission

As the UK's independent national institute for AI and data science, the Alan Turing Institute moves foundational research from possible to proven, and into capabilities the nation can rely on for its greatest resilience challenges.



How we create impact

The Institute exists to connect scientific excellence with national need.

We bring together expertise from across academia, government, industry and the wider research ecosystem to tackle challenges of strategic importance to the UK. Through frontier research, collaboration and innovation, we help translate advances in AI and data science into capabilities that strengthen resilience, inform decision-making and create long-term public benefit.

Success is measured not only by the quality of the science we produce, but by the impact it delivers for the nation.

Why join the Alan Turing Institute?

Few scientific leadership roles offer the opportunity to shape both the future of a discipline and its contribution to society at a national level.

As the UK's national institute for AI and data science, the Alan Turing Institute occupies a unique position at the intersection of scientific discovery, policy, technology and public purpose. The Chief Scientific Officer will have the opportunity to influence the direction of AI research, help shape national capability in one of the defining technologies of our time, and ensure that scientific advances deliver meaningful benefits for the UK.

This role offers the chance to work alongside leading researchers, policymakers, industry leaders and international partners, while building and leading world-class scientific teams. For an exceptional AI scientist, it is an opportunity not only to advance the field, but to help determine how the UK harnesses AI to strengthen resilience, prosperity and long-term public benefit.

For the right individual, this is more than a leadership role. It is an opportunity to leave a lasting mark on the future of AI and on the future of the nation.



The role

The **Chief Scientific Officer** is responsible for the scientific leadership of the Institute.

Working closely with the Chief Executive Officer they will define scientific direction, shape the Institute's AI research agenda and ensure that the Institute remains at the forefront of international developments in artificial intelligence and data science.

The role combines scientific leadership, organisational leadership and national influence. The successful candidate will help determine where the Institute invests its scientific effort, what capabilities it builds and how it delivers impact for the UK.

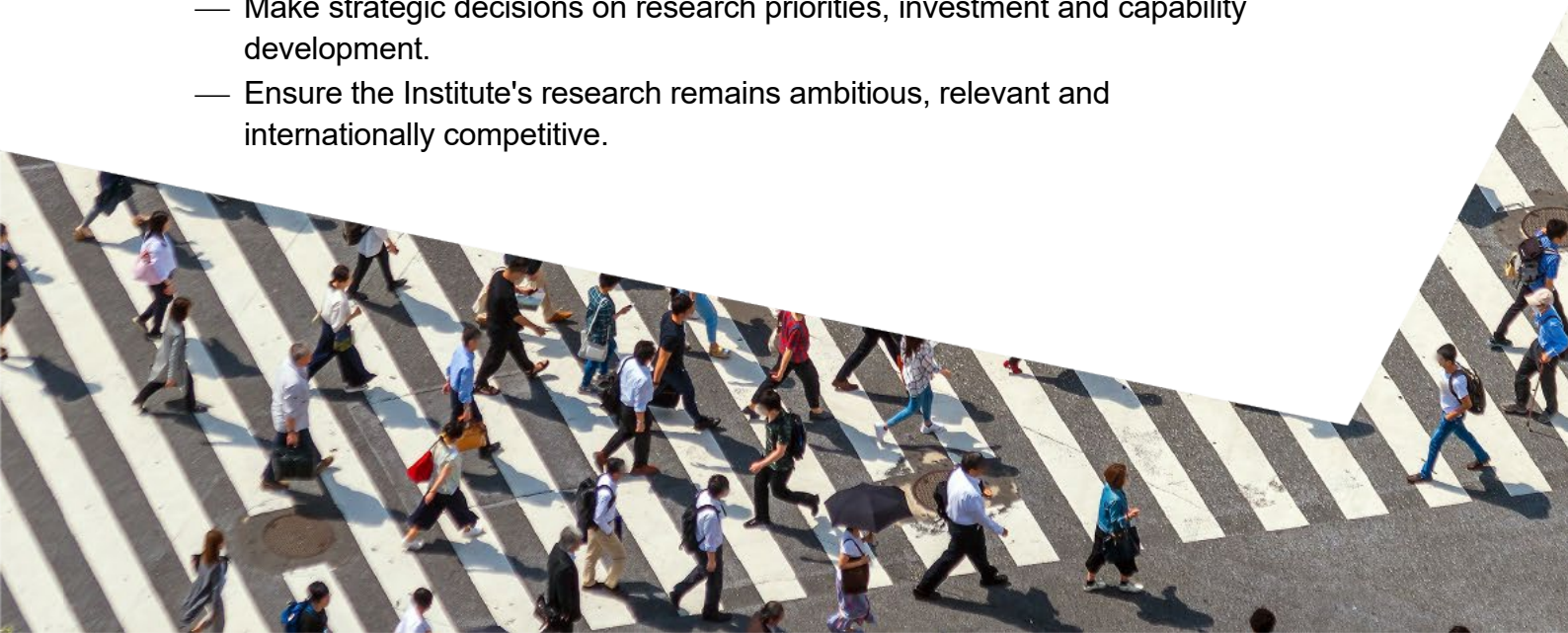
How you will make an impact

Scientific Direction

- Define and articulate a compelling scientific vision for the Institute.
- Shape the Institute's AI and data science research agenda and identify emerging opportunities for impact.
- Ensure the Institute remains connected to the international frontier of AI research.
- Provide scientific leadership and constructive challenge as a collegiate member of a joined-up Executive Team.
- Responsible for convening the Alan Turing Institute's Scientific Advisory Board

Research Leadership

- Lead a world-class portfolio of AI and data science research: ensure it is ambitious and actively managed.
- Drive scientific excellence, rigour and innovation across the Institute.
- Make strategic decisions on research priorities, investment and capability development.
- Ensure the Institute's research remains ambitious, relevant and internationally competitive.



Talent and Community

- Attract, develop and retain exceptional scientific talent.
- Build a high-performing and intellectually ambitious research culture.
- Support and develop the next generation of scientific leaders.
- Strengthen the Institute's role as a convenor of leading AI expertise across the UK and internationally.

Influence and Impact

- Act as a leading voice for AI and data science within the UK and internationally.
- Build trusted relationships across government, academia, industry and the security community.
- Ensure that scientific advances are translated into meaningful national capability and public benefit.
- Work closely with the Chief Strategy and Delivery Officer to bridge scientific discovery and practical deployment.

What We Are Looking For

Scientific Standing

- An internationally recognised reputation in artificial intelligence, machine learning, data science or a closely related field
- A significant record of scientific achievement and influence.
- Deep expertise in current and emerging developments in AI and their implications for society, government and industry.
- The intellectual curiosity and breadth to engage across disciplines and identify future scientific opportunities.

Research Leadership

- Experience leading major research programmes, institutes, laboratories or scientific organisations.
- A track record of defining scientific strategy and delivering against ambitious goals.
- Experience building and leading high-performing research teams.
- Success in attracting, developing and retaining exceptional talent.

Influence and Partnership

- Credibility with leading researchers, policymakers, funders and industry leaders.
- Experience building influential partnerships across organisational and sector boundaries.
- Exceptional communication skills and the ability to explain complex ideas to diverse audiences.
- The ability to influence at the highest levels nationally and internationally.

Leadership

- Strategic judgement and systems thinking.
- A collaborative and inclusive leadership style.
- High levels of integrity, credibility and emotional intelligence.
- The resilience and adaptability required to operate in a rapidly evolving field.

Desirable

- Experience advising governments or national institutions on AI, science or technology.
- Experience working at the intersection of research, policy and implementation.
- Experience of research translation, innovation or commercialisation.
- An established international network within the AI research community.

The Person

We are seeking a leading AI scientist.

The successful candidate will combine scientific distinction with the ability to lead people, shape institutions and influence national conversations. They will be recognised by their peers as an authority in their field and respected by partners as a trusted adviser and collaborator.

They will be both an outstanding individual contributor and an exceptional leader of others - someone capable of defining scientific direction while creating the conditions for world-class teams to thrive.

Most importantly, they will be motivated by the opportunity to ensure that advances in AI and data science deliver meaningful benefit for the UK and help shape the future of one of the world's most important technologies.

Reward and Benefits

Salary: Competitive – details available upon application

Location: The British Library

Contract: Permanent

Benefits include (but not limited to): 30 days holiday, Private Medical Insurance and a 10% contributory pension.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

We value diversity of background, experience, and perspective, and are proud to be an inclusive employer. We warmly encourage applications from all backgrounds, particularly from groups currently under-represented in our sector. If you feel passionate about this role but don't meet every single requirement, please apply – we recognise that great candidates may bring strengths beyond the criteria listed.



Application Process

The Alan Turing Institute is committed to attracting exceptional and diverse talent and welcomes applications from candidates from all backgrounds.

To apply, candidates should submit:

- A full and current Curriculum Vitae.
- A cover letter of no more than one page outlining:
 - Their interest in the opportunity.
 - How their experience aligns with the requirements of the role.
 - The contribution they believe they could make as Chief Scientific Officer.

Applications should be submitted via our candidate portal

As this role requires eligibility for Developed Vetting (DV) clearance, applicants must be eligible to obtain DV clearance as a condition of appointment.

Closing Date: 02/09/2026

The Alan Turing Institute is committed to creating an inclusive environment where everyone can thrive. We welcome applications from all suitably qualified candidates and particularly encourage applications from groups currently underrepresented in AI, data science and research leadership.

Further Information

For a confidential discussion about the opportunity, please contact:
Julia Thomas, Head of Talent jthomas@turing.ac.uk



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/jobs**