



**The Rt Hon Baroness Jacqui Smith
Minister for Skills**

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Rt Hon Baroness Barran MBE

[By email](#)

10 July 2025

Dear Diana,

I am writing to follow up on the questions you raised during the OPQ on 20 January 2025 requesting confirmation of the Turing Scheme funding allocation for academic year 2025–26. I am also responding to your question of if there would be a shift in priorities between schools, colleges and universities.

In the coming academic year, the Turing Scheme budget will be up to £78million. We are focusing the programme where it has the most impact. The Turing Scheme will ensure participants across schools, colleges and universities from disadvantaged backgrounds, and those with special educational needs and disabilities, are supported to undertake international placements. There has been no shift in the priorities of the scheme for the 2025–26 academic year since they were published in January. I am pleased to say we expect that more than half of the placements in the coming year will be taken up by students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

I recognise that the funding package represents a significant reduction from the previous academic year. The decision to allocate this level of funding has not been made lightly and has been taken against the backdrop of a challenging financial climate. Despite the challenges we face, I am proud that we continue to support students from all parts of the UK to gain the skills they need to thrive in a global economy.

Thank you again for taking the time to engage on these matters. I hope these further details have been useful and I will place a copy in the House libraries.

Yours sincerely,

**The Rt Hon Baroness Jacqui Smith
Minister for Skills**