

Vacancy: Academic Director (Mathematical Sciences)

The African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (South Africa) is a residential graduate mathematics institute in Muizenberg. We have around 90 taught Master's students, as well as research-based Master's and PhD students. Our research centre hosts postdoctoral fellows and other research staff. Our students are drawn from across Africa. AIMS relies on the support of visiting international lecturers, who usually stay on site with our students.

AIMS was founded in Cape Town in 2003 as a collaborative partnership between the University of Cape Town, Stellenbosch University and the University of the Western Cape to offer tailored graduate-level educational programmes, conduct cutting-edge research and to share mathematics with the wider community. AIMS is now a pan-African network of centres of excellence for postgraduate training, research and educational public outreach in mathematical sciences. Four additional AIMS centres have been established in Senegal (2011), Ghana (2012), Cameroon (2013) and Rwanda (2016). To date, the AIMS network has graduated more than 3000 alumni from 42 African countries through its structured Master's program.

As a place to work, AIMS offers a dynamic, international environment. We are a tight-knit community. Staff can share lunch with lecturers and students. Some of our staff have been part of the "AIMS family" since the institute was founded as a fledgling initiative in 2003!

Our 90 taught Master's students are roughly divided into two focus areas; Mathematical Sciences (50 students) and Artificial Intelligence for Science (40 students). Each focus area is managed by a different academic director, and the two academic directors work together as a team to ensure a holistic and high level of training of students at AIMS.

Academic Director (Mathematical Sciences)

AIMS South Africa is seeking an Academic Director (Mathematical Sciences) for its academic leadership team. We are looking for someone:

- who has a PhD in the mathematical sciences,
- who has teaching experience at graduate and postgraduate level,
- who thinks actively about advancing graduate mathematical education in Africa,
- who flourishes doing research,
- who can lead and mentor a diverse team of academic professionals
- who enjoys working closely with students, tutors and visiting lecturers on a daily basis,
- who can build innovative academic training programs.

University experience at the level of Associate Professor would be an asset to the role.

AIMS South Africa Council

Mike Giles (University of Oxford), Ulrich Paquet (AIMS), David Holgate (Chair, University of the Western Cape), Thandi Mgwabi (Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University), Daya Reddy (University of Cape Town), Neil Turok (University of Edinburgh), Louise Warnich (Stellenbosch University), Grae Worster (University of Cambridge), Kerstin Jordaan (UNISA)

Responsibilities

The responsibilities of the role include:

Curriculum Development and Management

- Collaborate with academic peers to contribute to the ongoing growth of AIMS's academic programme.
- Give direction and oversight to the academic team including students, lecturers and tutors, actively leading the selection process of each category of team members (involving partner universities and other actors).
- Manage the established curriculum on a daily basis, including: scheduling of lectures; interaction with lecturers, students, and tutors; coordinating other colleagues to contribute to the learning environment.
- Attend AIMS network-wide meetings with academic directors in the other AIMS centres.
- Provide academic support during project proposal writing and fund raising activities or the development of related documentation. Contribute to AIMS through independent fundraising and partnership building, especially through developing funded exchange programs with lecturers and students.

Research

- Coordinate students' research projects, ensuring that students have research supervisors for the research essay phase of the Master's programme.
- Ensure a good level of research for the Academic Director/Manager, the tutors and any other academic staff under supervision.
- Contribute a research agenda to AIMS and develop research and workshop programmes.

Stakeholder Relations and Partnerships

- Together with the Centre Director, Academic Director (AI) and researchers at AIMS, identify, establish and nurture relationships with national and international universities or institutions.

Operations Management

- As a senior manager at the Centre, participate in and contribute to the development of the Centre's operational plan and budget process
- Be a visible ambassador of organisational policies and practices taking corrective action with students and academic staff or volunteers as may be necessary
- Liaise closely with the operations team to ensure essential tools and resources are effectively in place to support the learning objectives

Application process

Prospective candidates must submit the following documents as one PDF file to vacancies@aims.ac.za:

- a detailed CV;

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- a cover letter motivating the application.

The closing date for applications is **30 November 2023**.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews.

We hope to fill the role by 8 January 2024, or as soon as possible thereafter.

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