NB: Because of the current difficulties surrounding international travel, we do not yet know when the next application round of the International Visitor Program will open. We have left the terms and conditions of the August 2020 round visible on our website to give an indication of the nature of the program. The terms and conditions may change when the program resumes.

International Visitor Program – August 2020 round
Terms and Conditions

Deadline for application: 11.59pm (Sydney time), Wednesday 26 August 2020

For visits within the period: April – December 2021

Applications must be submitted using the online form on the Sydney Mathematical Research Institute website:
https://sydney.edu.au/smri

Applications for visits not meeting the following conditions may be accepted in special circumstances with prior arrangement. In cases where an arranged visit cannot go ahead as planned because of disruptions to international travel or other unexpected factors, it is generally possible to reschedule the visit for a later period subject to consultation. Please direct questions about such issues, and the other conditions below, to the Institute’s Executive Director, Professor Anthony Henderson, smri.exec@sydney.edu.au.

(1) Applicants must hold a PhD or equivalent degree at the time of application. Applicants must be employed, or know that they will be employed at the time of the proposed visit, by a university, institute, laboratory or other similar organisation located outside Australia. The applicant’s employer will be expected to approve the proposed visit. Note that International Visitor Program funding does not include any salary.

(2) Applicants should have an established program of research in the mathematical sciences (ANZSRC Division 49) and the potential to collaborate with Australia-based researchers in these areas.

(3) Applicants should propose a research visit to Australia, within the period specified for the application round, of at least 1 month’s duration, of which at least 2 weeks are to be
spent at The University of Sydney. Please note that International Visitor Program funding can provide living allowance for at most 4 months, so any visit longer than this will require additional funding from other sources.

(4) Applicants must identify, at each Australian university or research institute at which they propose to spend at least 2 weeks in total (including The University of Sydney), an academic staff member there who has agreed to be the host of that part of the visit. Hosts will be contacted to confirm their support for the visit, including any potential financial contribution, and their comments will be taken into account in assessing the benefit of the proposed visit. The location at which the applicant proposes to spend the most time will be deemed the primary location of the visit, and the comments of the primary host will be given particular weight. Some funding is reserved for visits where the primary host is a staff member of the School of Mathematics and Statistics at The University of Sydney. If the visit includes at least 2 weeks spent at the mathematical research institute MATRIX, an Australian organiser of the MATRIX research program to which the applicant has been invited should be designated as the host of that part of the visit.

(5) Applicants may nominate up to two academic referees who are not among the hosts of the proposed visit and who are willing to be contacted by the Executive Director for their confidential comments on the applicant’s research track record, if requested, in the month following the application deadline. Members of the Scientific Advisory Committee of SMRI are eligible to act as referees, in accordance with the committee’s policy on conflicts of interest, and provided they are not among the hosts of the proposed visit.

Successful applications will be selected by the Scientific Advisory Committee of Sydney Mathematical Research Institute, as named on the website, supplemented by researchers with different expertise as required. The selection criteria are:

- Applicant’s research track record, assessed relative to opportunity (taking into account time since PhD and any research career interruptions).
- Benefits of the proposed visit for Australian research in the mathematical sciences.
- Considerations of diversity, equity and inclusion in relation to, for example, field of research within the mathematical sciences, gender of applicant and host(s), and number of years post PhD of applicant and host(s).

Applications from female and gender-diverse researchers, from researchers employed in developing countries, and from researchers belonging to other groups which are underrepresented in the mathematical sciences, are particularly encouraged.

Successful applicants may receive funding of up to A$4650 per month, for up to 4 months (paid in instalments), to assist with accommodation and other local expenses during their visit. In addition, they may obtain reimbursement of one return economy airfare or equivalent amount up to a maximum of A$2600, and one visa application fee if appropriate. They will be assisted by University of Sydney staff in their Australian visa application and in locating suitable accommodation for their stay in Sydney, as well as childcare and school options for those travelling with children. Note that funding and reimbursement will depend
on a signed agreement with The University of Sydney, identity verification, and the presentation of receipts for airfare and visa application fee.

By submitting an application you consent that the uploaded files, and other information in the application form, may be shared with Scientific Advisory Committee members and associated administrative staff as well as with the nominated host(s) and academic referees, if necessary. This information will not be used for any purpose other than the ranking and selection of applicants and the compiling of anonymised reports on the selection process. A list of successful applicants, with the dates and other details of their visits once confirmed, will be posted on the Institute’s website.

Please note that the application form requires the upload of two separate PDF files:

- an up-to-date CV including a publication list and details of any research career interruptions, and
- a 1–2 page outline of a proposed research visit to Australia meeting the above conditions, with some details of projects and collaborators at each location, appropriate for the time to be spent there.

If you have your CV and publication list in separate files, please combine them into one PDF before upload. In case of repeat applications, the most recent will be used.