



International Visitor Program Terms and Conditions

Deadline for applications is generally 2 months after the round opens

**Applications must be submitted using the online form on the
Sydney Mathematical Research Institute website: [International Visitor Program](#)**

Conditions

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 may be possible to reschedule the visit for a later period, subject to consultation. Please direct questions to the Institute's Executive Officer, Kate Doyle, smri.exec@sydney.edu.au

(1) Qualification and employment

At the time of application, applicants must hold a PhD or equivalent degree. 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. If the application is successful, their employer would be expected to approve their research visit to Australia and their entering into a research affiliation with The University of Sydney for the period of that research visit. Note that International Visitor Program funding does not include any salary.

Research program

- (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) Visit period

Applicants should propose a research visit to Australia, within the period specified for the application round, of at least 4 weeks' duration. A minimum of 2 weeks is to be spent at each institution nominated, including The University of Sydney. Typically, we provide funding for visits between 4-8 weeks. Successful applicants will be offered a funding contribution for a minimum of 4 weeks (sometimes including financial support from their hosts), but may not necessarily be offered funding for additional weeks that are applied for. Extended visits (during sabbaticals, for example) generally require substantial additional funding from other sources.

(4) Groups

A group of, at most, 3 applicants may propose to visit Australia at the same time, to collaborate with Australia-based researchers on a common project, which is detailed in a joint research proposal. Each applicant must satisfy the eligibility conditions, complete their own application form and upload the joint research proposal with their application. However, the research project will be assessed as a group project and funded accordingly. In the interest of equity, we look at the number of visitors that any given host has had in previous and current rounds of the IVP, including groups.

(5) Additional activities during visit

In addition to a research project, applicants are welcome to propose related activities during their visit, which might include a seminar, a workshop, or lecture series, all of which can be organised during their visit to SMRI. In consultation with SMRI Directors, we also invite the proposal of a themed semester program that the applicant(s) could lead at SMRI over the course of a 12-week period, aligned with Semester 1 (Feb - May) or Semester 2 (July - Oct). All such activities should ideally be designed to be accessible, at least in part, to an online audience, and be of interest to a largely local or domestic audience. Increased funding for a themed semester program will be considered.

(6) Visit Hosts

Applicants must identify, at every nominated Australian university, an academic staff member there who has agreed to be the host for that part of the visit. If an applicant has been invited to participate in the MATRIX research program (Melbourne) and intends to spend 2 weeks spent at [MATRIX](#), an Australian organiser of that research program should be designated as host for that part of the visit. Hosts will be contacted to confirm their support for the visit, including potential financial contribution, and their comments will be considered 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, and the comments of the primary host will be given particular weight.

(7) Referees

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 Chair of the SMRI Scientific Advisory Committee for their confidential comments on the applicant's research track record. 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. References from senior academics are recommended for early career researchers.

Selection Criteria

Successful applications will be selected by the SMRI Scientific Advisory Committee, as named on the website, and other expert colleagues 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, including any associated seminars or workshops, to 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).

Diversity

We particularly encourage applications from female and gender-diverse researchers; researchers employed in developing countries; and/or researchers belonging to other groups which are underrepresented in the mathematical sciences.

Visa

Successful applicants who are not Australian or New Zealand citizens or Australian permanent residents will be assisted by University of Sydney staff in their application for an Australian visa suitable for their research activities, which is a prerequisite of the IVP.

Funding

Funding determined by the committee is to be considered a contribution towards an academic's visit and, in many cases, will not cover all costs.

Typically, we provide funding for visits between 4-8 weeks. Successful applicants may receive funding of up to A\$1200 per week, up to a maximum of 12 weeks (paid in instalments), to assist with accommodation during their visit. In addition, successful applicants may obtain reimbursement for one visa application fee, and one return economy airfare up to a set maximum, depending on the country of origin. Where academics are travelling with dependants, aged 0-17 at the time of the proposed visit, an additional family allowance will be calculated as a percentage of the agreed living allowance and based on the number of weeks the family stays in Australia (regardless of the number of dependants).

If required, SMRI staff can provide information on local accommodation and transport, as well as childcare and school options for those travelling with children. Note that all benefits depend on a signed agreement with The University of Sydney, identity verification, and the presentation of receipts in the case of airfare or visa fee reimbursement.

Reimbursement

Please be advised that any financial reimbursements to successful applicants will go to their personal bank accounts. It is not our practice to reimburse an applicant's institution.

Application uploads

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

- an up-to-date CV including current employment, date of PhD completion, and full publication list;
- a 1–2 page outline of a proposed research visit to Australia meeting the above conditions, including proposed arrival and departure dates, proposed dates spent at each location, some details of the research project(s) you will work on and any current or potential collaborators, and a brief description of any additional research-related activities you propose.

In case of repeat applications, the most recent will be used.

Due to the number of applications that we receive for the International Visitor Program, please be advised that approximately **50%** of applications are successful.

Sharing application information

The University of Sydney uses FormStack for the purpose of facilitating your application for International Visitors Program at Sydney of Mathematical Research Institute. We will collect the following personal information about you when you apply:

- Name / Date of Birth / Gender
- Contact details including address and email
- Citizenship status / Family members (if travelling)
- Proposed visit details (including arrival and length of stay)
- Academic referees' details
- Academic qualifications and transcripts
- CV and employment & professional qualification details
- Personal Statement

We will use your personal information to assess your application and suitability for the International Visitors Program.

We will share your personal information with the academic host and SMRI Scientific Advisory Committee for the purposes of reviewing your application for the Sydney Mathematical Research Institute International Visitor Program. We will share your personal information with our third-party service providers where necessary, for the purposes of processing visa applications. A list of successful applicants, with dates and details of their visits, will be posted on the Institute's website.

We will not disclose your personal information to anybody else, unless you have given consent, or we are authorised or required to do so by law. Providing us with your personal information is voluntary. If you choose not to supply your personal information, we will not be able to assess your application.

For more information about how we will handle your personal information, how you can request to access or correct the personal information we hold about you, and who to contact if you have a privacy enquiry or complaint, please see our webpage: [Privacy at the University of Sydney](#).

Facilities

SMRI will assist international colleagues wherever possible. Visitors will be provided with a desk in a quiet shared space with between 1-3 other academic colleagues. Visitors will need to bring their own laptops, but additional IT equipment can be requested. Library and intranet access can also be provided.

Questions

If you have any questions about the conditions of the International Visitor Program, or any further queries about a potential visit to Australia, please contact the Institute at smri.exec@sydney.edu.au.
