Math+X Investigators

Request for Nominations

The Simons Foundation invites nominations for the Math+X Investigators program. This program is designed to encourage novel collaborations between mathematics and other fields in science or engineering by providing research funds to professors at United States and Canadian universities to establish programs at the interface between mathematics and another field of science or engineering.

Level and Duration of Funding: A Math+X Investigator is appointed for a period of five years and will receive research support in an amount of $300,000 per year, which includes 20 percent in indirect costs to the awardee’s institution. Renewal for an additional five years is contingent upon the evaluation of scientific impact of the Investigator. Renewal beyond the ten-year period will not be considered. Appointments will begin July 1, 2015.

A Math+X Investigator position may be interrupted and resumed for reasons that would normally justify a leave from a university, such as illness, the need to care for family members or time off for national service. Periods of sabbatical or research leave do not count as interrupting the Investigator position. Support may be withdrawn at any time at the discretion of the foundation, but it is expected that termination of the award at times other than five years would occur only rarely.

Allowable Expenses: The funding provided to the Investigator may be used at the Investigator’s discretion to support activities that develop connections between mathematics and the X partner discipline in the following categories.
• Up to one month of summer salary and related benefits for the Investigator only.
• Salary support and related benefits, including tuition support, for postdoctoral fellows and research associates, graduate students, or undergraduate research assistants in each of the mathematics and X departments.
• Domestic or international travel for the Investigator and postdoctoral fellows and research associates, graduate students, or undergraduate research assistants supported by the grant.
• Short- or long-term visitors, including travel, meals and lodging expenses.
• Research equipment, supplies and other expenses directly benefiting the research.
• Special lectures or lecture series, and workshops that will attract participation from both departments and from corresponding departments from other universities.

Grant funds may not be used for the salary support of current faculty, except for the Investigator.

Indirect costs are limited to 20 percent of direct costs, unless specified otherwise in a program’s guidelines or award letter, and with the following exceptions: equipment, tuition and any subcontracts with budgets including indirect expenses. Indirect costs paid to a subcontractor may not exceed 20 percent of the direct costs paid to the subcontractor.

Additional funding policies are available on our website:
https://www.simonsfoundation.org/funding/policies-and-procedures/#mps

Eligibility:

Mathematics and X Departments: The X partner should be a department of science or engineering that will engage in significant collaboration with the mathematics
department in an area where such collaboration is not the norm. Both departments must have doctoral programs.

X partners in finance and business will not be considered. Areas where there are already well-established links with mathematics, such as economics, string theory or computational complexity, will also not be considered unless the proposal involves particularly unusual collaborations.

**Math+X Investigators:** The Math+X Investigator must be a current tenured faculty member at a U.S. or Canadian institution, with a primary appointment in the mathematics department. The Investigator will be expected to teach in both the mathematics and the X departments, be appointed in both departments by the award start date (courtesy appointments will be allowed), and attend an annual meeting at the Simons Foundation, to be arranged by the foundation. There are no citizenship requirements.

The foundation reserves the right to determine eligibility but, typically, a ‘primary appointment’ is defined as one where an Investigator is a full-time employee of an academic institution and with a teaching load that is comparable to that of other faculty members in the same department. Investigators may transfer their award to a new educational institution within the U.S. or Canada, subject to approval from the foundation and the old and new institutions. The award will be interrupted or terminated, at the foundation’s discretion, if an Investigator takes up a primary long-term position at a research institute, national laboratory, non-U.S., Canadian, or for-profit organization or accepts a major administrative responsibility that significantly reduces the time available for research.

**Unspent Funds:** Any funds not spent in one year of the grant, excluding salary, tuition and benefits, may be spent in subsequent years without prior approval. Unspent funds at the end of the five or ten years must be returned to the foundation unless express permission is obtained for a specified future use. Requests
for no-cost extensions will be considered.

**Reporting:** A financial report and progress report summarizing the collaborative activities conducted under the grant will be required from the institution and Investigator annually by August 31 of each year.

There will be a comprehensive review in the fourth year, at which a detailed progress report and statement of research plans is to be presented by the Math+X Investigator. This review will determine the reappointment of the Investigator for an additional five years. At the conclusion of the appointment, at either year five or ten, a final report is required, due within 60 days of the appointment end date.

**Number of Awards:** The foundation will award up to two Math+X Investigator grants per year.

**Nomination Procedure:** The foundation asks the university to submit one nomination to the Math+X Investigator program. The nomination materials outlined below should be sent via email to Elizabeth Roy (eroy@simonsfoundation.org) by October 28, 2014. The foundation expects to notify nominees of the decision by May 1, 2015.

For each nominee, we ask the nominators to provide the following documents in a single PDF file in the order indicated. All documents should be typewritten, single-spaced and in typeface no smaller than 10-point font. Margins, in all directions, must be at least ½ inch. Nominations that do not adhere to these requirements may not be considered.

- Three nomination letters from the nominee’s dean, the chair of the mathematics department and the chair of the X department. Each letter should be up to two pages in length, explaining the distinctive scientific contributions of the nominee, focusing on scientific accomplishments of the
past five years and including discussion of a few important papers. Each letter must be signed by the nominator.

- A statement from the nominee, up to five pages in length, which addresses the following:
  - What novel collaborations and possibilities will the award produce? Clearly describe the involvement of both departments.
  - The nominee's vision of how the research funding will be used to establish new links between the two departments and, more generally, between the disciplines involved.

- The nominee's curriculum vitae, including Ph.D. year, institution, advisor, postdoctoral institutions and advisors, and positions held subsequent to award of doctorate.

- The nominee’s up-to-date publication list.

- A list of past and current postdoctoral fellows and Ph.D. students supervised by the nominee within the last five years and a list of those who may be supported by the grant.

- The nominee’s current and pending external and internal research support (award title, dates, sponsor, total award amount, award number).

**Important Dates:**

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<tr>
<th>Nomination Deadline</th>
<th>Notification</th>
<th>Award Start Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>October 28, 2014</td>
<td>May 1, 2015</td>
<td>July 1, 2015</td>
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**Contact Information:**

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