

Call for involvement in the setting up of a National Academy for Mathematical Sciences

The CMS would like to thank respondents to its consultation on the green papers “*A National Academy for the Mathematical Sciences*” and the “*Knowledge Exchange (KE) Connected Centres Network (CCN) for Mathematical Sciences*,” for detailed, thoughtful, and constructive comments. A brief summary of the most common and significant points raised can be found on the CMS website <https://www.cms.ac.uk/wp/national-academy/>. A small Task and Finish Group (TAFG) was convened to advise on next steps, and very informative meetings have been held with some of those involved in existing UK academies. On the basis of the community’s widespread support and the time-limited EPSRC funding (which runs until March 2025), the TAFG’s recommendation is for a pragmatic approach, in which an academy structure is developed that dovetails with existing groups like the Connected Centres Network, ACME, and the CMS, in such a way as to allow these groups and their activities (such as the collaborative work of the learned societies on research policy and funding) to evolve to better suit the interests of the whole mathematical sciences community, while not disrupting those elements that work well.

The next phase

A fixed term Executive Director will be employed by the INI, using the dedicated EPSRC funding to support a 2.5 year set-up phase. The CMS will appoint an Executive Committee and Chair, all of whom will work on a voluntary basis, to drive the project forward. They will be responsible for developing a detailed actionable plan, identifying and securing sources of funding, and setting up a steady-state fellowship and governance structure. Since, in consultation with stakeholders, it will be making detailed decisions about the structure of the proposed academy, the Executive Committee must reflect diverse backgrounds and career stages, bringing expertise in industry, mathematics education, academia, and at least two members especially tasked with providing challenge to ensure that evolving structures support the academy’s commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion. It is anticipated that a half day meeting every two months will be required, with some consultation and policy work carried out between meetings. The Chair will be asked to confirm that they will be able to commit their time at around 0.2FTE for the duration of the set-up phase. The Executive Committee is expected to consist of no more than eight members.

The Executive Committee will be appointed initially for the set-up phase (2022-25). It is anticipated that, should the decision be taken to proceed with the academy at the end of this phase, to ensure continuity, some members would become trustees of the new Academy in its first years of independent operation.

In parallel, a Knowledge Exchange Manager, who will establish the Connected Centres Network, has been appointed and will start in INI in July 2022.

Call for nominations

The success of the Academy will rely on the commitment and breadth of expertise of the Mathematical Sciences community. I would therefore like to invite you all to reach out to your networks in order to nominate, or self-nominate, members and a Chair for the Executive Committee.

Nominees should complete the attached proforma and send to Lindsay Walsh: Lindsay.walsh@lms.ac.uk by 8st August 2022. It is anticipated that the committee will start its work around 1st October 2022.