

Pilot Programme - Mathematics in Prison

Call for expressions of interest

Initial Closing Date: 31 July 2024

As part of its Mathematics for Humanity project, The International Centre for Mathematical Sciences (ICMS), in collaboration with Fife College (the education provider for the Scottish Prison Service) is launching a programme for mathematicians in Scottish universities to contribute to continuing education in Scottish prisons.

The educational provisions for prisoners cover only the standard curriculum, but the uptake is significant. In addition, the Fife College team leader responsible for the provision has spoken enthusiastically of the commitment and dedication of prisoners when they are offered educational opportunities. Such have been offered, e.g. by Glasgow University at HMP Barlinnie, with courses and lectures in history and philosophy. The ICMS programme would be the first one to focus on mathematical education in Scottish prisons.

The aims of the programme would be served by the offer of several different opportunities, tailored to the particular population of each prison:

- (1) Single events designed to introduce some recent developments in mathematics and science, similar to the ICMS public lectures – this could be of particular interest in prisons with a highly educated population (to degree level or above, e.g. HMP Shotts).
- (2) Workshops for small/medium groups focusing on the vocational value of mathematical knowledge and mathematical skills for the workplace and for life outside prison, including 'numeracy clinics' providing guidance to the quantitative and statistical language of modern life as applies to loans, taxes, assets, and politics. This would be of particular help to the population towards the end of the sentence who are to be reintegrated into society (e.g. HMP Castle Huntley, Scotland's only open prison).
- (3) Support workshops for groups of up to 5 people doing degrees in either maths or other disciplines, focusing on quantitative aspects of specific modules. This could run

alongside the Fife College provision of the standard curriculum in most Scottish prisons.

The programme would also explore other formats as may emerge by way of some pilot sessions and discussions.

We are issuing a call for expressions of interest in participating as an instructor or occasional lecturer in this programme. ICMS and Fife College will cover all administrative and organisational aspects of the programme, as well as reimburse all expenses.

If you would like to volunteer, please write to Minhyong Kim, Director, or Beatrice Pelloni, Deputy Director. Please provide a brief background as well as an outline of the content and format of what you would be prepared to offer.