



Cambridge Mathematics Placements Programme FAQs for Academic Hosts

What are the responsibilities of the host department?

You are expected to cover any costs of the student working in the host department. Bursaries are available, but are not intended to cover such overheads as computing facilities, use of equipment and training courses. The host department should provide a desk or bench space and a computer. In rare instances, students have spent a significant proportion of their time working outside of the host department, for example in the Centre for Mathematical Sciences. Please get in touch if you are considering this option. Plans should be made so that students are not left to work in isolation. We can discuss possibilities for joint supervision with a member of CMS.

I am a PhD student/junior member of staff. Can I have a CMP student working with me?

Yes. We will need a statement from your PhD supervisor or PI to the effect that she or he is happy to support the student working with you (i.e. to arrange whatever access requirements need to be made) and that she or he is happy for you to spend time working with the student.

I am a member of staff. Can I have a CMP student working with me without a more junior scientist as host partner for the CMP student?

Yes, but be aware that particularly in the early weeks the CMP student will require a lot of your time. If you are applying for bursary funds, be aware that we do take into consideration the support of the CMP student within the research environment of the project.

Who decides which student we get if more than one student shows an interest in our project?

You do. The process is that students will approach you if they are interested in your project. How you decide between them, whether you interview, and whether you post a deadline for expressions of interest is up to you. We very strongly advise that you interview students before confirming a project. If you can use two students, you may take two, although we may prefer to give others the chance of having a student before enabling you to take two.

How are students paid?

Changes to University policy mean we can no longer provide a direct bursary to students as we have in the past. Instead, CMP students will be employed by either the host department or the Faculty of Mathematics. CMP can facilitate this process and take care of the administrative work associated with employing students, but the end result is that the cost of supporting a project has gone up significantly. We expect that the total cost for an 8 week project will be slightly less than £3000. Due to the increase in costs, we ask that academic hosts (especially returning ones) make an extra effort to find funds within their department to help cover the cost of the project.

Is financial support available, and what does it cover?

We have a small fund to support academic projects, but we ask all students and all host labs and departments to do their utmost to find complementary funds from their own sources. As a rough guide, we hope that departments and labs that have had CMP students in the past and are familiar with the programme will contribute at least half of the student's living expenses. We ask students to ask colleges for grants and subsidised accommodation.

If support is required, students should fill in the bursary application form (available from mid-January) and submit it by 13 March 2020. The application will require statements from both the student and their supervisor. First round decisions will be made by late April. Some funds will be reserved for a second round, for which bursary applications should be made by 5 May 2020, with decisions announced by the beginning of June. More details can be found on the CMP webpages.

If a financial support is not required, when will decisions be made?

If you have taken advantage of the chance to present your project in the seminar series, we ask that you delay requiring an answer from your student until 6 March 2020, to allow others presenting their projects at a later date an equal chance to interest students. If you have recruited your students through other means, you are free to run your recruitment process as you please.

Still have questions?

Write to us at CMP@maths.cam.ac.uk

To learn more about the programme, view past project proposals, and submit a project for this year, visit: <http://www.maths.cam.ac.uk/opportunities/careers-for-mathematicians/summer-research-mathematics>

Many thanks for considering the CMP programme. We look forward to receiving your projects.