



# AIMS

**African Institute for  
Mathematical Sciences  
TANZANIA**

## Information on AIMS Tanzania for German Research Chair Applicants

### AIMS

The African Institute for Mathematical Sciences is a pan-African Network of Centres of Excellence offering high quality post graduate training, innovative research, and wide ranging public engagement and outreach programmes that focus on harnessing mathematics, science and technology to drive the transformation of Africa. Established in 2003, AIMS now has six Centres in South Africa, Sénégal, Ghana, Cameroon, Tanzania and Rwanda. It has graduated over one thousand postgraduate students from 42 African countries, over 30% of whom have been women. Entry onto the AIMS Masters in Mathematical Sciences is highly competitive, with over 10 applications for every place. Further information on the AIMS Network can be found at [www.nexteinstein.org](http://www.nexteinstein.org).

### AIMS Tanzania

AIMS Tanzania opened in October 2014 and is located in the historic town of Bagamoyo, on the Indian Ocean coast about 70kms north of Dar Es Salaam. AIMS Tanzania's ambitions include:

- Delivering high-quality postgraduate training in the mathematical sciences, equipping students with the skills and motivation they need to make an impact in education, research, industry and development
- Building capacity in the mathematical sciences in higher education and research institutions in Tanzania and the wider region
- Supporting the development of mathematics and science education in the primary and secondary sectors across Tanzania
- Establishing collaborative Research Chairs that seek innovative solutions to Africa's challenges and contribute to the creation of a vibrant research community in Tanzania
- Becoming a hub for capacity building and research on applications of data, statistics and modelling to development
- Providing opportunities for all to enjoy and benefit from mathematics and science and increasing the participation of women in science-related activities and careers
- Contributing to the development of Bagamoyo as a centre for learning and research that celebrates its heritage and culture

AIMS Tanzania graduated its first cohort of 37 Masters students in 2015, its second of 48 students in 2016, and is now hosting its third cohort of 54 students. Together these 139 students come from 18 different countries and 46 of them are female. Alumni are now being employed in higher education institutions, development organizations, and financial and software companies, as well as undertaking further study.

Currently, in addition to running its Masters programme, AIMS Tanzania is supporting the establishment of a Centre of Excellence for Science, Mathematics and English Education for the Mtwara region, contributing to mathematics and science outreach activities in schools, building a focus on statistics and modelling, and seeking to appoint its first Research Chair.

## The AIMS Tanzania German Research Chair

The German Research Chair will be AIMS Tanzania's first Research Chair, providing the appointee with a unique opportunity to shape the research profile of the Centre. The Chair's Research Group will be allocated dedicated space in the large beach-side 'villa' in Bagamoyo that also provides accommodation and workspace for the Centre's students, tutors and visiting lecturers and researchers. Opportunities for the Group to interact closely with the other academic activities of the Centre will include supervision of student projects, recruitment of graduates as PhD students, and research collaborations with visitors.

It is anticipated that the Chair will be established in partnership with the University of Dar Es Salaam, one of the first universities in East Africa, and a member of the African Research Universities Alliance. Opportunities also exist to develop collaborations with other universities in Tanzania with which AIMS Tanzania is currently developing links, including Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences, the Nelson Mandela African Institute of Science and Technology, and the newly established Mwalimu Julius K Nyerere University of Agriculture and Technology.



## Bagamoyo

Historically Bagamoyo is one of the most important towns on the Tanzanian mainland. Interactions between East Africa and Arabia and India over many centuries resulted in the unique and distinctive Swahili culture that is particularly strong on the offshore islands of Zanzibar and in coastal towns such as Bagamoyo. The associated language, Kiswahili, is now spoken throughout East Africa and is an official language in Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, before the Tanzania mainland became first a German and then a British colony, Bagamoyo was its most important port, connecting East African trade routes with Zanzibar and the wider world. Many traditional Swahili buildings remain, interspersed with distinctive administrative buildings from the German colonial period, such as the Bagamoyo 'Old Boma'.

In addition to AIMS Tanzania, Bagamoyo is home to a branch of the Ifakara Health Institute, to TaSUBa (the Bagamoyo Institute for African Arts and Culture), both well-known internationally, and to the recently established Marian University College. These are all within easy walking distance of the Centre, as are a range of restaurants and shops providing most essentials. Good quality accommodation suitable for Centre staff and their families is available in the town at reasonable rents. A long sandy beach hosting a large small-scale fishing industry is literally at the Centre's doorstep. Visits to Dar Es Salaam can be achieved comfortably within a day.

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