



TROMSØ
FORSKNINGSSTIFTELSE

Call for nominations – BFS and TFS mathematics programme

This programme is open for the mathematics departments at the University of Bergen (UiB), the University of Oslo (UiO), University of Tromsø (UiT) and the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU).

Purpose: The programme aims to strengthen and boost research in pure mathematics at UiB, UiO, UiT and NTNU through strategic recruitment and a cooperative support project.

The programme consists of two sub-programmes:

1. Recruitment of young talented mathematicians

This sub-programme will help UiB, UiO, UiT and NTNU to recruit young talented researchers in pure mathematics with outstanding research potential, by giving them good framework conditions to realise their scientific potential to achieve international excellence. The duration of the support will be up to six years, with an evaluation after 3–4 years. The nominating institution is required to either advertise a permanent faculty position within the grantee's field of research before the end of the six-year period or, alternatively, to establish a tenure track position at the start of the project period.

2. Joint project for activities supporting pure mathematics in Norway

This sub-programme aims to strengthen research in pure mathematics in general at UiB, UiO, UiT and NTNU by supporting national and international cooperation, researcher mobility, career development, research schools, summer schools etc. The project activities are expected to enhance the gender balance within the field of pure mathematics, for instance by using affiliated positions/ professor II-positions.

BFS and TFS now calls for nominations for candidates and a proposal for a joint project, with start-up in 2017/2018:

1) Recruitment of young talented mathematicians

Nominations, together with a project description, can be submitted by the mathematics departments at UiB, UiO, UiT and NTNU. BFS intends to support one candidate per institution (UiB, UiO and NTNU), given that the quality of the candidate and the project meets the requirements. TFS intends to support one candidate at UiT, given that the quality of the candidate and the project meets the requirements.

Each institution can nominate two candidates, at least one of whom must be a woman. Candidates who already have a permanent position as a professor or associate professor (at the nominating university) cannot be nominated. The nominees must normally be 40 years old or younger on the application date. However, the age limit may be exceeded by up to two years in the following circumstances or a combination thereof:

- Parental leave: the age limit may be exceeded by the actual amount of leave taken for each child born after the awarding of a PhD.
- Long term illness¹ or national service – the age limit may be exceeded by the documented amount of leave taken after the awarding of a PhD.

¹ More than 90 days for the candidate or a close family member (child, spouse, parent or sibling))

2) Joint project for activities supporting pure mathematics in Norway

The four participating universities are invited to submit one joint proposal for a cooperative project with participation from UiB, UiO, UiT and NTNU. The proposed project must aim to strengthen research in pure mathematics nationally. The joint project will be coordinated by UiB.

More information about the program, see Appendix A

Application deadline for both parts of the programme: 30 April 2017

Sub-programme 1:

The nominees must prepare a proposal containing the following:

- Cover page in line with the BFS template ([download](#))
- Scientific/research plan (max. 7 A4 pages)
- Plan for establishing and leading a research group (max. 3 A4 pages)
- Budget in line with the BFS template ([download](#))
NB! Nominees from UiT use TFS template ([download](#))
- CV of up to three (3) A4 pages listing the candidate's most important and relevant publications
- A letter of commitment from the faculty in accordance with the BFS template ([download](#)) must accompany the application.

Sub-programme 2:

The joint project proposal must contain the following:

- A plan for project activities in line with the BFS project template (max. 8 A4 pages) ([download](#))
- Budget in line with the BFS template ([download](#)). Activities which is supposed to be supported by TFS; budget in line with TFS template ([download](#))
- Letters of commitment from the faculties/institutions involved that are in line with the BFS template ([download](#)) must accompany the application.

Applications shall be addressed to:

Bergen Research Foundation
Ytrebygdsvegen 215
Postboks 7150
5020 BERGEN, Norway

In addition to a signed paper version of the prequalification application, one copy of the application and CV, compiled in one (1) PDF file, should be submitted to post@bfstiftelse.no on or before 30 April 2017.

Contact information: BFS: Oddveig Åsheim: phone +47 41 66 31 64, oa@bfstiftelse.no
BFS: Anne Marie Haga: phone +47 97 00 52 76, amh@bfstiftelse.no
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Appendix A - BFS and TFS Mathematics Programme:

A programme aimed at strengthening pure mathematics in Norway – more about the programme

The aim of the programme is to strengthen pure mathematics in Norway. Mathematics has proud traditions in Norway, and still has a strong international position. Norway also awards the international Abel Prize in mathematics, which, together with the Fields Medal, is considered by many to be the Nobel prize in mathematics.

The Research Council of Norway (RCN) has [evaluated](#) mathematical research in Norway (2011/12). BFS's and TFS's Mathematics Programme builds on the recommendations from this evaluation. BFS and TFS wish to contribute to the recruitment of candidates of high international quality. In addition, BFS and TFS wish to fund one joint project that will follow up a broader range of the recommendations from the national evaluation, such as national and international cooperation, mobility, research schools, summer schools, career development, gender equality etc.

In order to ensure that the programme has strong strategic support, the programme will be implemented in cooperation between the nominating institutions, BFS and TFS. The programme consists of the following two sub-programmes:

- 1) Recruitment: Each of the three participating institutions is invited to nominate a maximum of two candidates – at least one of whom should be female. Successful candidates will be given an opportunity to lead and build a small research group normally consisting of:

- 1 post doctor and 2 PhDs

Each nominated candidate must submit a project proposal and budget in line with the foundation's templates. The institutions commit themselves to the nominated proposal and budget. You will find more information about budgets and project grant agreements in Appendix B. The project and the nominated candidate will be evaluated by an international expert panel. Nomination documents must therefore be written in English.

- 2) The joint project: The intention is to follow up the recommendations from the RCN evaluation of mathematical research in Norway. UiB will coordinate and submit a proposal in line with the foundation's templates on behalf of the three institutions. The establishment of a Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) should be part of the proposal. The proposal will be evaluated by an international panel. The application language is therefore English.

The evaluation process:

A panel of 3–4 internationally recognised researchers/professors in the field of pure mathematics will be established with the help of BFS's scientific advisory board. The panel will evaluate the nominees and rank the candidates and their projects. The panel will also evaluate the cooperative project. The evaluation will emphasise the following:

The candidate:

- I. Scholarly work and academic ability*
- II. Leadership ability and experience*
- III. Teaching experience*

The candidate's project

- I. Quality of research*
- II. The research environment*
- III. Work plan*

Importance will be attached to the originality and innovativeness of the project, as well as to whether or not it entails international cooperation. The main criterion for selection will be high academic quality judged by international standards. In addition to the quality of the candidate and his or her work, the candidate's ability and ambition to build and lead a research group, and to cooperate with leading international research groups, will be given particular emphasis.

Successful candidates are expected to pursue additional competitive funding opportunities (e.g. EU or ERC funding) during the project period. The nominated candidate's experience of, or potential for, research management, including national and international research collaboration, is an important evaluation criterion.

In line with the strategy of the respective department and faculty, the proposed research group can also aim to be a node in an already established research environment or group, with the candidate as the leader of the node.

For the cooperative project:

- I. How the proposal meets the recommendations from the RCN evaluation of mathematical research in Norway.*
- II. Work plan*
- III. The extent to which the work plan and proposed joint activities can contribute to enhancing national cooperation*

BFS's and TFS's boards will make their decision based on the recommendation from BFS's scientific board in autumn 2017. BFS's scientific board will decide whether interviews are necessary in order to make its recommendations.

The names of the members of the panel and the evaluation reports are confidential and will not be communicated to the applicants.

Evaluation after 3–4 years, with a possible 2-year prolongation

The programme will be evaluated after 3-4 years. The evaluation will result in a recommendation on whether or not the programme will be prolonged for 2 more years. If tenure track positions are used, the evaluation of the candidate must be in accordance with the universities' regulations for such positions.



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Appendix B - Funding and project grant agreement

Sub-programme 1: Recruitment of young talented mathematicians

Each successful nomination can be granted financial support from BFS or TFS for a research project, maximum NOK 2 million per year for 4 years, +2 years depending on the result of the evaluation.

Sub-programme 2: Joint project for activities supporting pure mathematics in Norway

The joint project between UiB, UiO, UiT and NTNU can be granted BFS - and TFS funding for supporting activities² of maximum NOK 4 million per year for 4 years, with the possibility of funding for 2 additional years, depending on the evaluation results.

For both sub-programmes, it is an important prerequisite for funding that any contributions from BFS and TFS are matched by resources from the host faculty at around the same level.

Such matching resources can include salaries, consumables, equipment, overheads related to positions funded by BFS and TFS and "leiestedskostnader" (e.g. the use of labs / equipment)

Funding from the foundations may be put towards

- the salary of the project leader and technical personnel
- PhD and postdoctoral fellowships
- the purchase of research equipment
- other research expenses directly related to the project

Funding from the foundations may not be put towards

- overheads
- other expenses not directly related to the project

In the event that a grant application is successful, a project grant agreement will be signed by the foundation and UiB, UiO, UiT and NTNU, respectively, in which their respective responsibilities will be detailed in full.

Donation reinforcement (gaveforsterkning): The funding allocated to this programme from BFS has already been reinforced by the Norwegian state by 25%, and an application for donation reinforcement cannot be submitted to the NRC. The funding from TFS has not been reinforced and UiT has to apply for donation reinforcement.

² Activities that follow up the findings in the NRC evaluation (the main points: career development, national/international mobility, national cooperation and gender balance)