

Applying for IMU Membership

The IMU invites every country in the world with mathematical activities to become an IMU Member. A country that is starting to develop its mathematical culture and is interested in building up links to mathematicians the world over is invited to join the IMU as an Associate Member.

The IMU has no individual members. Its Members and Associate Members are countries. Each member country is represented through an Adhering Organization, which may be its principal academy, a mathematical society, its research council or some other institution or association of institutions, or an appropriate agency of its government.

Any country that is not a member of the IMU is invited to apply for IMU membership. Please contact the IMU Secretary General who will explain the benefits of IMU membership and the application procedure. An overview can be found in the IMU Membership Guidelines on the IMU website.

Photos: 1: Catherine Schroder/Universite de Strasbourg, 2: ICM 1897 Zürich, 3: ICM 2026 Philadelphia 4: IMU GA 2022 Helsinki, IMU

Want to get involved and find out more about the IMU and its activities?

Individuals can get involved in the various activities offered by the IMU and its Commissions and Committees. Please check the IMU website and contact your Adhering Organization for more information.

If your country is not yet a member, please contact the IMU Secretary General.

Subscribe to IMU News and connect with us on LinkedIn.

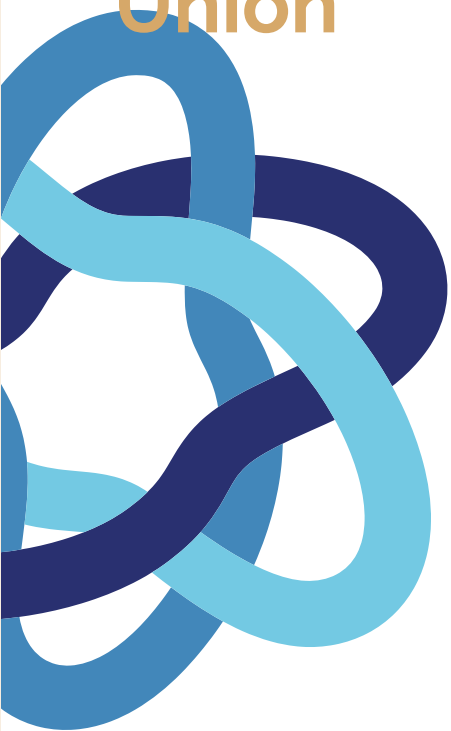
For full details about the IMU, visit www.mathunion.org

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IMU International Mathematical Union



The IMU is an international non-governmental and non-profit scientific organization. The IMU's objectives are:

- ➔ To promote international cooperation in mathematics.
- ➔ To support and assist the International Congress of Mathematicians and other international scientific meetings or conferences.
- ➔ To encourage and support other international mathematical activities considered likely to contribute to the development of mathematical sciences in any of its aspects, pure, applied, or educational.

The IMU was founded in 1920 and re-constituted after World War II in 1951.

The IMU is a member of the International Science Council (ISC).

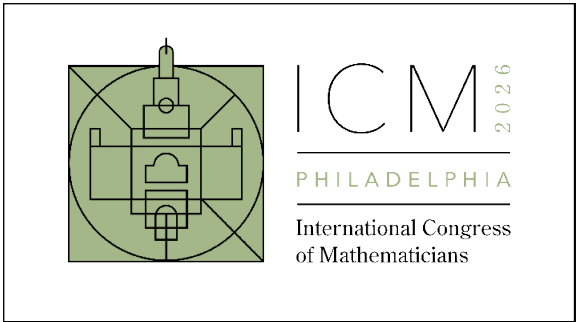




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The International Congress of Mathematicians (ICM)

- The ICMs are the largest mathematical conferences worldwide. They cover all areas of mathematics and are held once every four years. The first ICM was held in 1897 in Zurich, Switzerland.
- The IMU considers the organization of the ICMs as its most important activity. An ICM should reflect what is going on in mathematics in the world at the time when it takes place, present the best work of all mathematical subfields and different regions of the world, and thus point to the future of mathematics. The invited speakers at an ICM are carefully selected by an outstanding program committee that is supported by section panels.
- ICM 2026 - the 30th edition of the ICM - was held in July 2026 in Philadelphia, USA. At the ICM Opening Ceremony, the prestigious scientific prizes of the IMU, considered as the highest distinctions in the mathematical world, are presented.



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IMU Awards

The IMU grants four prizes for mathematical achievement, awarded every four years at the Opening Ceremony of the ICM.



FIELDS MEDAL
recognizes outstanding mathematical achievement. It was first awarded in 1936.



IMU ABACUS MEDAL
is awarded for outstanding contributions in mathematical aspects of information sciences. It was first awarded in 2022.



CARL FRIEDRICH GAUSS PRIZE
is awarded for outstanding mathematical contributions that have found significant applications outside of mathematics. It was first awarded in 2006.



CHERN MEDAL AWARD
is awarded to an individual whose accomplishments warrant the highest level of recognition for outstanding achievements in the field of mathematics. It was first awarded in 2010.



IMU Prize for Mathematical Outreach

LEELAVATI PRIZE
recognizes outstanding public outreach work for mathematics. The IMU has awarded the Prize since 2010. Since 2014 this Prize is sponsored by Infosys.

IMU Special Lecture



ICM EMMY NOETHER LECTURE
honors women who have made fundamental and sustained contributions to the mathematical sciences. It was first presented in 1994.



Organization of the IMU

The members of the IMU are countries, with each member represented through an Adhering Organization.

The IMU currently has 83 members worldwide. Five multi-national societies are at present affiliated with the IMU: African Mathematical Union (AMU), European Mathematical Society (EMS), Mathematical Council of the Americas (MCoFA), Southeast Asian Mathematical Society (SEAMS), Unión Matemática de América Latina y el Caribe (UMALCA).

The IMU's governing body is the General Assembly (GA). The GA consists of delegates appointed by the Adhering Organizations of the IMU, together with the members of the IMU Executive Committee, and of the Representatives of Associate and Affiliate IMU Members. The GA normally meets once every four years usually at a place and date close to an ICM. The IMU Statutes contain a detailed description of the rights and duties of the GA.

The IMU is administered by an Executive Committee which conducts the business of the Union. The IMU Executive Committee is elected for a four-year term.

The IMU Secretariat, based in Berlin, Germany, runs the IMU's day-to-day business, provides support in many IMU operations, and hosts the IMU Archive.



IMU Commissions and Committees

In addition to the IMU Executive Committee which administers the Union in general, various IMU Commissions and Committees address specific issues on the IMU agenda.

The IMU Commissions and Committees are:

- International Commission on Mathematical Instruction (ICMI)
- Commission for Developing Countries (CDC)
- International Commission on the History of Mathematics (ICHM)
- Committee for Women in Mathematics (CWM)
- Committee on Publishing (CoP)

In addition, the International Day of Mathematics (IDM) is organized under the auspices of the IMU. March 14 was declared as the IDM by UNESCO in 2019 and launched in March 2020. The IDM adopts a new theme each year, around which events are organized and delivered on a global scale. More information is available via <https://www.idm314.org>



Publications

The IMU newsletter (IMU News) is published every two months. The newsletter aims to enhance communication between the IMU and the worldwide mathematical community, by reporting decisions and recommendations of the IMU, and highlighting issues that are under discussion. In addition, IMU News reports on major international mathematical events and developments, and on other topics of general mathematical interest. Feedback from readers is welcome. Please subscribe to our newsletter via the IMU website.

The IMU Bulletin is published annually, with the aim of keeping IMU's Adhering Organizations and other interested parties informed about the Union's activities. The Bulletin reports on key decisions as well as financial, administrative, and organizational issues.

The Proceedings of the ICMs are available on the IMU website.