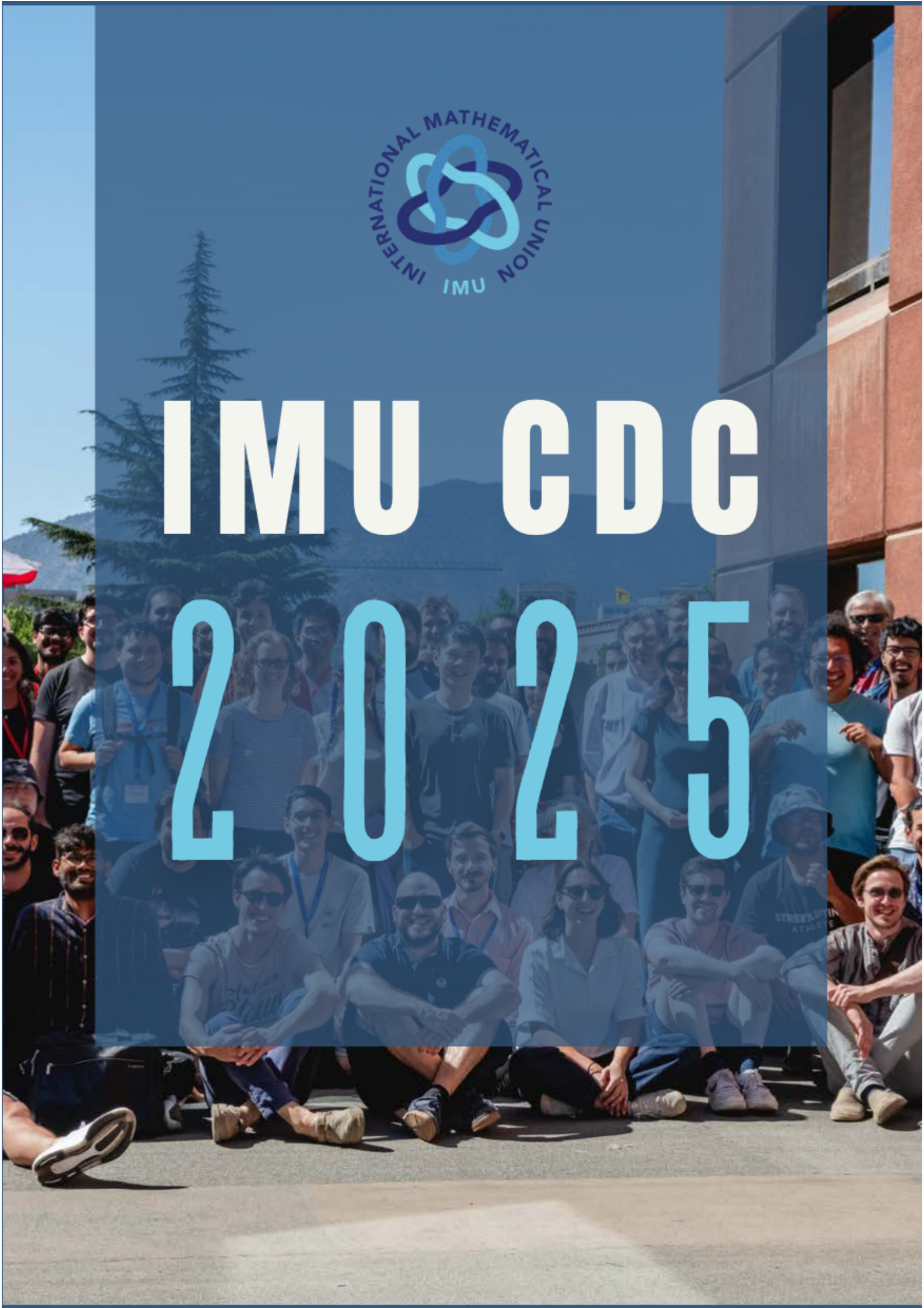




IMU CDC 2025



IMU CDC 2025 in Review

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OPENING LETTER

A word from the CDC Leadership on Investing in Equity

Dear Friends and Supporters of the IMU CDC,

The Commission for Developing Countries of the International Mathematical Union (IMU CDC) was established to address a persistent imbalance in the global mathematical community. While mathematical research and education advance rapidly in wealthier nations, researchers and institutions in developing countries continue to face significant structural barriers. These include limited access to journals, lack of funding for travel and collaboration, isolation from international networks, insufficient support for graduate training and the impossibility of making scientific plans for extended periods, due to political and economic instability.

The current CDC has placed particular emphasis on equity of opportunity as the guiding principle of its grant-making. This means ensuring that funding decisions recognise diverse starting conditions rather than applying a uniform standard of past achievement. Equity of opportunity, in our framework, does not imply lowering scientific standards but rather acknowledging that comparable talent requires different levels of support depending on local circumstances. This principle informs every stage of our work, from the design of grant categories to the composition of grant committees and the final distribution of funds. This booklet provides an overview of the activities supported by your contributions. It also serves as an account of how donor funding is allocated across the IMU CDC's grant programs.

Donations to the IMU CDC directly enable four types of grants:

- **Conference Grants:** This program provides partial support to mathematical science-based conferences and research schools organized in developing countries.
- **Travel & Mobility Grants:** Funding for travel and living expenses. These grants enable mathematicians based in developing countries to foster and sustain international collaborations by visiting esteemed research institutions worldwide.

- **Graduate & Postgraduate Support Grants:** The CDC offers two scholarship schemes to support graduate studies, leading to a Master or PhD degree in the mathematical sciences in a university in a developing country.
- **Grants for Institutions:** The CDC offers currently one grant program to support institutions, the Volunteer Lecturer Program which provides financial assistance to universities in developing countries to host volunteer lecturers for intensive courses, filling a gap in the host university's teaching capacity.

Each grant is awarded through a competitive process. The corresponding committees evaluate applications based on scientific merit, local context, and potential impact. The IMU CDC provides targeted investment in individuals and institutions in developing countries capable of producing high-quality mathematical work. We are constantly reviewing our programs in order to provide mathematicians in developing countries the support they need. Strengthening mathematics in developing countries therefore strengthens the entire mathematical community, which depends on the full participation of talent from all regions.

The following pages present data on grant distribution, recipient reports, and examples of outcomes. We encourage you to review this material carefully. Your support is essential to the continued operation of these programmes. Thank you for your commitment to strengthening mathematics in developing countries.

Sincerely,

Andrea Solotar
President, Commission for
Developing Countries
International Mathematical Union



CDC MEMBERS (2023 - 2026)



IMU CDC Committee Meeting in April 2025

CDC President
Andrea Solotar, Argentina

CDC Secretary for Policy
Ludovic Rifford, France

CDC Secretary for Grants
Jose Maria P. Balmaceda, Philippines

CDC African Member
Mahouton Norbert Hounkonnou, Benin

CDC Asian Member
Le Tuan Hoa, Vietnam

CDC Latin American Member
Mariel Saez, Chile

CDC Members appointed by IMU EC
Dayue Chen, China
K. N. Raghavan, India

CDC Members appointed by ICMI EC:
Mercy Kazima, Malawi

IMU President and Ex-Officio Member:
Hiraku Nakajima, Japan

CDC Liaison of IMU EC:
Tamar Ziegler, Israel

IMU CDC Administrative Manager:
Lena Koch

IMU Grants Manager:
Vanessa Chung

2025

IN NUMBERS



X

in total donations received



90

grants awarded



39

countries impacted

Education Support



10

Students received scholarships

18

Volunteer courses supported

10

Institutions Impacted

Community Engagement

Nov 3

CDC Webinar 2025

81

Webinar attendees

85%

Webinar Satisfaction Rate



23

volunteers contributed

Research Development



37

Conferences supported

25

Research visits supported

64

Institutions connected

SIMONS RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

SIM NS
FOUNDATION

Promoting collaboration through short research visits

The Simons Research Fellowship (SRF) was launched in 2024 through a generous three-year grant from the Simons Foundation. Building on the legacy of earlier CDC travel-support initiatives, the SRF was created to strengthen research capacity by enabling mathematicians to undertake longer collaborative research visits of up to three months at institutions around the world.

These visits allow mathematicians from the Global South to work directly with experts in their field, create access to essential research environments, and develop long-term collaborations that continue well beyond their travel period. In turn, the knowledge and networks gained through these visits are brought back to home institutions, benefiting students, colleagues, and local research communities.

What the Program Enables

- Access to expertise and resources not available locally
- Joint research publications and development of long-term collaborations
- Training opportunities for students and faculty upon fellow's return
- Integration into global research networks

2025 at a Glance*

**Grant period: April 2025 - April 2026*



25 Fellowships Awarded

19 Countries Impacted



5

Gender Proportion



44% of fellows in 2025 are women. Not only is the SRF the first IMU travel-support program providing support for up to 3 months, it is the first to include dedicated child-support funding. This helps remove long-standing barriers for caregivers, improving access to international research opportunities.

"It would have been impossible to conduct research at this intensity and productivity without the [Simons Research Fellowship] grant."

Dr. Gabriela Paola Ovando from the Universidad Nacional de Rosario who was hosted by Dr. Andrei Moroianu from the University Paris-Saclay for two months in Summer 2025



FACES OF THE FELLOWSHIP

"Given the great workspace and working conditions at the Wechloy University in Oldenburg, my research productivity increased considerably. I got to discuss new subjects and potential collaboration with colleagues, which would not have been possible without the program funding."

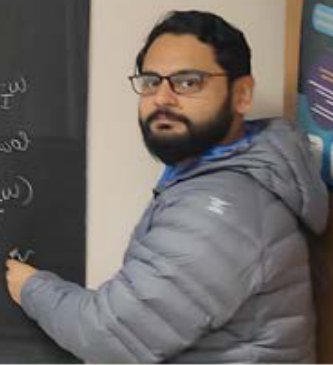


Dr. Abdallah Maichine from the Mohammed 5 University in Rabat was hosted by Dr. Konstantin Pankrashkin from the University of Oldenburg for two and a half months in Summer 2025

"The grant has played an important role in advancing my research. With this support, I have been able to develop several articles and we are now preparing to submit these works to highly reputed journals. This program has strengthened my confidence, created space for collaboration, and opened the way for my research to gain broader visibility."



Dr. Umamaheswaran Arunachalam from the Sastra Deemed to be University was hosted by Dr. Bernhard Keller from the Université Paris Cité, for two months in Summer 2025

[illegible]

Creating Opportunities for Early-Career Mathematicians



The Abel Visiting Scholar Program (AVSP), supported by the Abel Prize and administered by the IMU Commission for Developing Countries (CDC),

supports young mathematicians from developing countries to go on a month-long research visit abroad.

The program is aimed at mathematicians under the age of 35 to strengthen the research development of early-career researchers at a critical stage of their careers. These visits often help young mathematicians build long-term research connections, develop new skills, and continue their research activities with greater confidence and support.

What the Program Enables

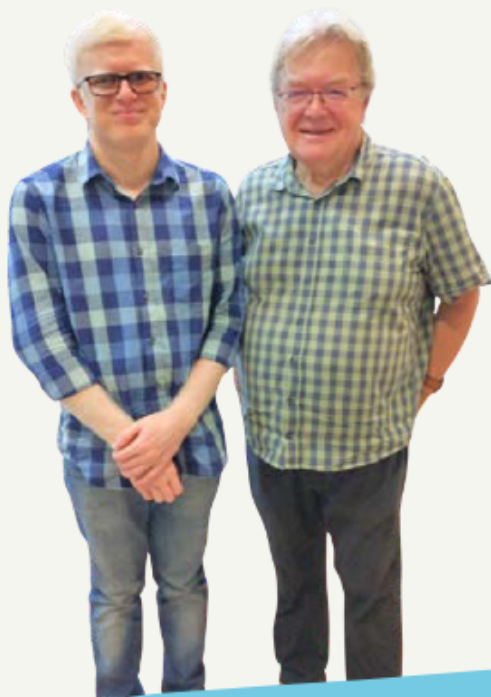
- International research collaboration and academic exchange
- Access to mentorship, expertise, and research environments
- Development of long-term professional networks

AVSP at a Glance

39 Visits funded

18 Countries Impacted





“I can say without a doubt that the IMU grant has significantly contributed to my growth and progress as a researcher. The visit was highly fruitful, and we are currently collaborating on problems related to iterative roots of mean-type mappings and multifunctions. I am hopeful that this collaboration will lead to some quality publications in the near future.”

Dr Chaitanya Gopalakrishna from Indian Statistical Institute Bangalore with host Prof. Witold Jarczyk at the University of Zielona Gora, Poland in Summer 2025.

“The visit led to significant progress on Suslin’s conjecture for certain smooth real varieties. Beyond the research results, it also initiated a long-term international collaboration and the preparation of a joint research paper. The opportunity to work closely with leading researchers provided valuable support for the continuation of my research.”

Dr Sourjya Banerjee from the Institute of Mathematical Sciences, India was hosted by Prof. Jean Fasel at the Université Grenoble Alpes, France in Autumn 2025.



**LOOKING
AHEAD
TO 2026**

AVSP FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

Beginning in 2026, the Abel Visiting Scholar Program will transition into the Abel Visiting Scholar Program for Graduate Students, with a renewed focus on supporting young mathematicians at an early stage of their research careers.

The new program is designed for graduate students in their later years of their Ph.D. and recent Ph.D. graduates from developing countries, providing opportunities for short-term international research visits and collaboration. Through short-term international research visits and collaboration opportunities, the program aims to help young researchers strengthen their research networks, gain international experience, and transition into independent research careers.

VOLUNTEER LECTURER PROGRAM

Bringing high-level teaching to universities in the Global South

The Volunteer Lecturer Program (VLP) is one of the longest running programs of the CDC. Established in 2008, the VLP is designed to connect mathematicians from the Global South with the international mathematical community.

Through the program, universities in emerging regions can host volunteer lecturers to teach courses that otherwise could not be offered locally. These visits not only allow local mathematics students to learn from leading experts, it can also encourage collaborations between the volunteer lecturer and the local faculty.

2025 at a Glance

- 18** Courses Funded
- 7** Countries Impacted
- 10** Institutions Impacted

What the Program Enables

- Access to academic expertise and resources not available locally
- Joint research publications and development of long-term collaborations
- Training opportunities for students and faculty

“The rich academic exchanges [during Prof. Zeghib’s visit] not only strengthened professional and personal ties, but also laid the groundwork for potential long-term collaborations with various research groups and institutions in Algeria.”

Dr Rezki Chemlal (host) on the visit of Dr. Abdelghani Zeghib at the National Higher School of Mathematics, Algeria in 2025.

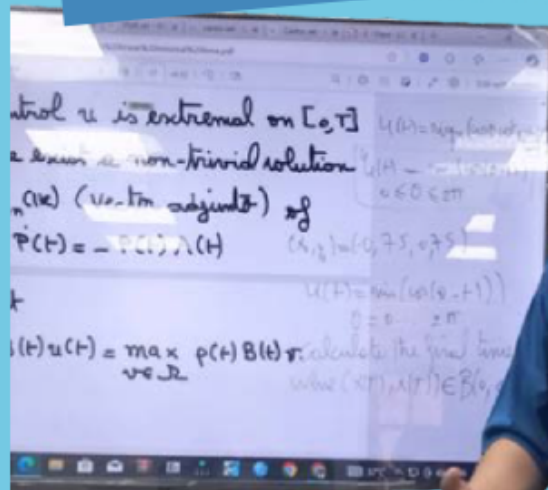


LECTURERS in ACTION

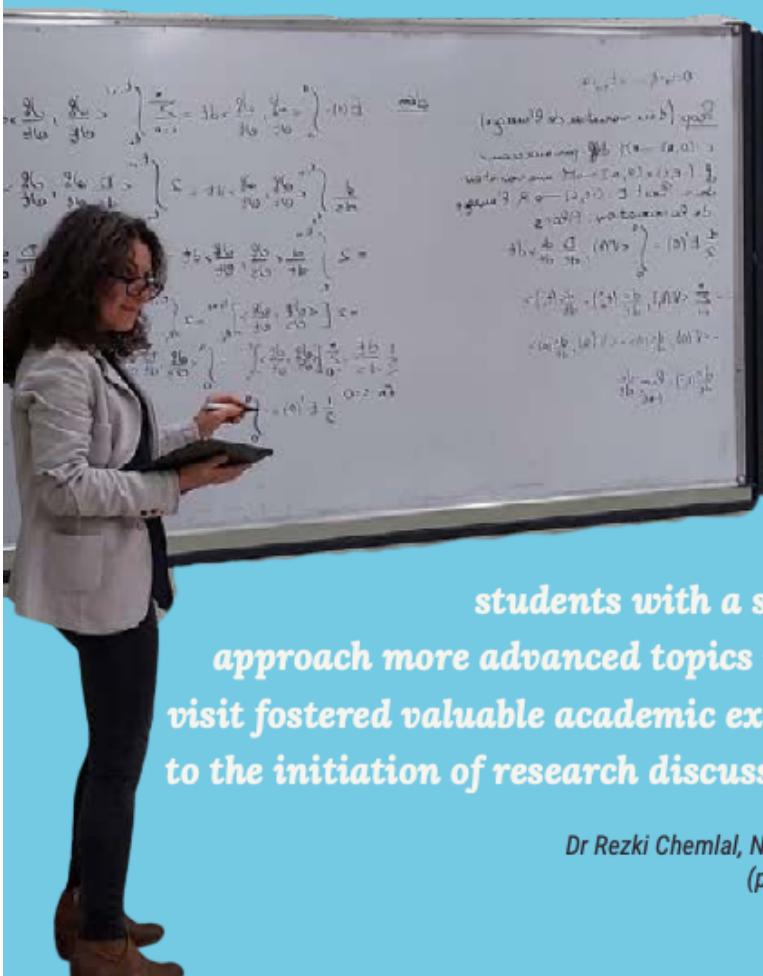
“Prof. Hantoute’s presence internationalised the curriculum and enhanced the department’s academic profile. Faculty members gained exposure to high-level pedagogy and research trends, which has influenced teaching practices.”

Dr. Safraz Ahmad, COMSATS University Islambad (host) on volunteer course given by Dr. Abderrahim Hantoute (pictured left) from the University of Alicante in April 2025.

Host: COMSATS University Islambad, Pakistan
Volunteer: Dr Abderrahim Hantoute, University of Alicante, Spain
Course: Optimal Control Theory
Dates: April - May 2025



Host: National Higher School of Mathematics, Algeria
Volunteer: Dr Barbara Nelli, Università dell'Aquila, Italy
Course: Riemannian Geometry
Dates: April 2025



“Prof. Nelli’s intensive course provided students with a solid conceptual foundation, enabling them to approach more advanced topics with greater confidence. Beyond teaching, the visit fostered valuable academic exchanges with junior faculty members, leading to the initiation of research discussions and potential long-term collaborations.”

Dr Rezki Chemlal, National Higher School of Mathematics (host) on the visit of Dr. Barbara Nelli (pictured right) at the National Higher School of Mathematics, Algeria in 2025.



CONFERENCE SUPPORT

Providing Access to Conferences and Research Schools in the Global South

Since 2014, the Conference Support Program (CSP) has provided partial funding for mathematical conferences and research schools in the Global South. The CSP supports high-impact conference and research schools by providing financial support to cover essential travel and accommodation costs of participants from developing countries. By doing so, the CSP enables students, early-career researchers, and invited speakers to participate in activities that foster learning, professional growth, and regional collaboration. Through this support, the CSP helps strengthen local mathematical communities and expand opportunities for scientific exchange.

What the Program Enables

- Partial financial support to cover essential participation costs
- Greater access for students and early-career researchers to attend scientific gatherings
- Increased scientific exchange and strengthened regional mathematical capacity

2025 at a Glance

37 Activities Funded

24 Countries Impacted





Snapshots from Conferences

2025



“This support ensured a diverse and inclusive scientific program, strengthened regional and international collaboration, and fostered meaningful exchanges that contributed significantly to the workshop’s academic and social impact.”

Dr. Le Minh Ha, organizer of the Retreat for Women in Applied Mathematics – Southeast Asia 2025 which took place in Vietnam in September 2025



“The grant offered us the opportunity to invite researchers, especially young researchers, mainly from Ukraine, to attend the conference and interact with renowned researchers in the field.”

Dr. Parascovia Sirbu, organizer of Conference on Quasigroups and Related Systems that took place in the Republic of Moldova in Summer 2025





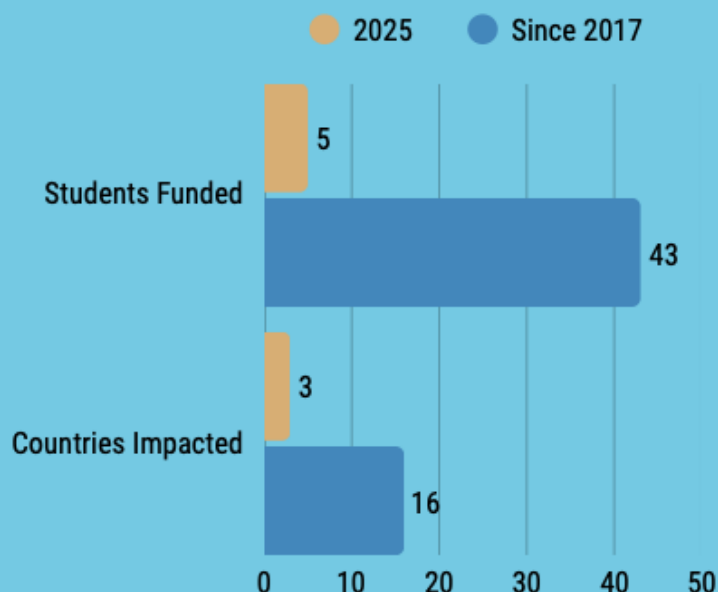
GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Supporting the Next Generation of Mathematicians

The Graduate Research Assistantships in Developing Countries (GRAID) program was launched by the IMU CDC in 2017 to address a critical global imbalance: talented mathematics students in low-income countries often lack the financial support to pursue full-time graduate studies because they must work to support themselves. As such, GRAID was introduced to help talented graduate students in developing countries focus on their mathematics studies without financial stress. By providing stipends for tuition, fees, and living expenses, GRAID gives these students the chance to pursue research full-time and connect with international mentors.

What the Program Enables

- Full-time graduate research opportunities in mathematics
- Tuition and living support for up to 4 years
- Mentorship from local and international mathematicians
- Strengthens research communities in the Global South



research in progress

The GRAID program has been instrumental in facilitating high-quality research by providing both financial stability and academic recognition. Its support has allowed focused engagement with advanced mathematical problems and enabled meaningful collaboration within the global mathematical community. The program's impact is clearly reflected in the steady progress and scholarly output of [Mughees Ghaya]'s project.

Prof. Imran Anwar, Lahore University of Management Science
Principal Investigator

GRAID Students: Asqa Noreen and Mughees Ghaya



“The students from COMSATS, co-supervised by me and funded by GRAID, were all successful and it was always a positive experience. The GRAID support is essential to their success as it allows them to concentrate on their project. During my visit, where I taught at COMSATS, Muneeba assisted as a TA for the problem sessions, which helped her gain confidence in the subject and her teaching.”

Prof. Volkmar Welker, University of Marburg,
International Partner

GRAID Students: Areeba Maqbool and Muneeba Mansha

This assistantship program has allowed me to actively participate in hands-on research, sharpen my technical skills, and contribute to the academic growth of others in the group. It has been a valuable experience that continues to shape my development as a researcher and will be instrumental in my future academic pursuits.

Jhunas Paul Viernes, Graduate Research Student,
University of Philippines Baguio, Philippines



BREAKOUT GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP

Nurturing Mathematical Talent to Achieve Their Full Potential

Established in 2016, the IMU Breakout Graduate Fellowship Program supports exceptional students from developing countries who are pursuing a PhD in the mathematical sciences. The program was launched with generous donations from past recipients of the Breakthrough Prize in Mathematics, who wished to reinvest in the global mathematical community by empowering the next generation of researchers.

The Fellowship provides comprehensive financial support for the duration of the doctoral program—typically up to four years—covering living expenses, tuition fees, and research-related costs. By removing financial barriers, the program enables outstanding students to fully dedicate their time and energy to their research and academic development.



- Full financial support to allow fellows to focus entirely on their PhD studies
- Increased visibility and opportunity, allowing outstanding students participate more in the global mathematical community.
- Long-term capacity building, strengthening mathematical research by investing in training highly talented young mathematicians.





“Beyond financial support, being selected by the IMU is a great honor and a recognition of my potential as a young researcher. It gives me confidence, strengthens my academic profile, and connects me to a global network of mathematicians and mentors. The fellowship motivates me to uphold the IMU’s values through excellence in research and meaningful international collaboration.”

*Halima Yusuf, Ph.D. candidate,
African University of Science and Technology, Nigeria*

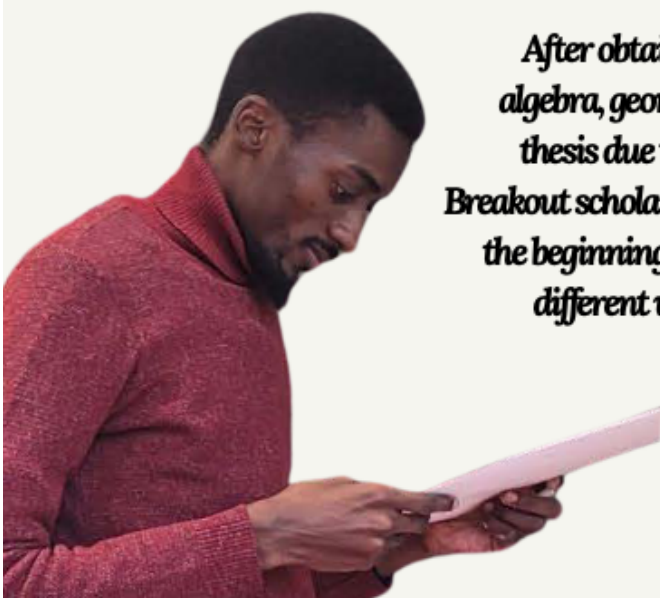
scholars *at work*

Snapshots of research, growth, and impact



The fellowship has played a pivotal role in shaping my postdoctoral career. It provided me with advanced research training and exposure to innovative methodologies that I now apply in my current position. Moreover, it helped me establish collaborations that continue to influence my research direction and grant applications. Thanks to this experience, I feel better equipped to pursue an academic career and contribute meaningfully to my field.

*Dr. Priyendhu Kethappan Sasikumar,
2020 Breakout Fellow, Graduated in 2025,
Post-doctoral Researcher at Inria, France*



After obtaining my Master's degree in mathematics with a specialization in algebra, geometry, and number theory, I had a lot of difficulty registering for a thesis due to a lack of funding and administrative constraints. Thanks to the Breakout scholarship, I was able to fund and register for my doctoral thesis. Since the beginning of my Ph.D, I have benefited from mobility as part of my work in different universities. Thanks to this program, I can pursue my life's dream.

*Copernic Bounougouendji, Ph.D. candidate,
University Marien Gouabi, Brazzaville, Congo*

DONORS AND PARTNERS

Our work is made possible through your support

The IMU CDC extends its sincere gratitude to the individual and institutional donors and partners whose support has made our programs possible.

Your commitment strengthens mathematical research and education in the Global South, enables scholars to pursue transformative opportunities, and supports the building of lasting networks of collaboration across the globe.

Every collaboration initiated, every conference and school supported, and every fellowship awarded is built on the foundation of your generosity.

On behalf of the International Mathematical Union, we thank you for your trust and partnership. Your support continues to create opportunities that transform careers and lives.

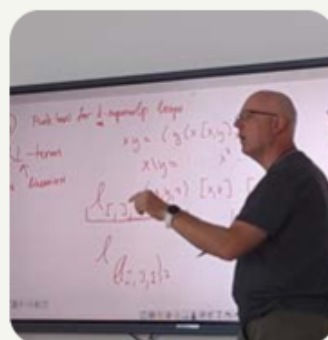
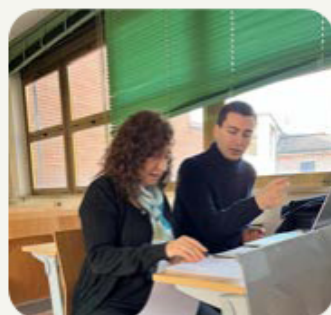
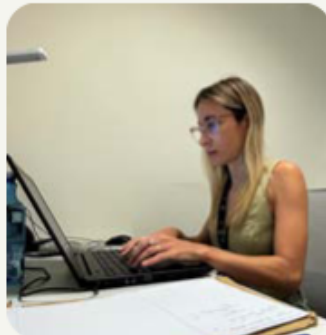


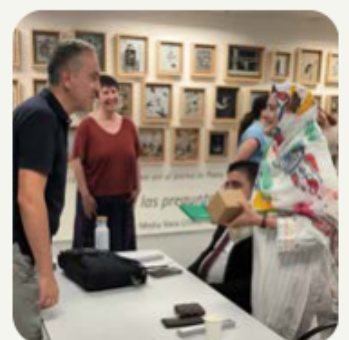
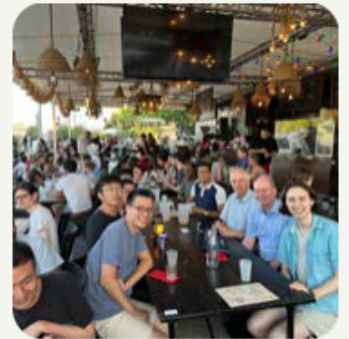
The Mathematical Society of Japan

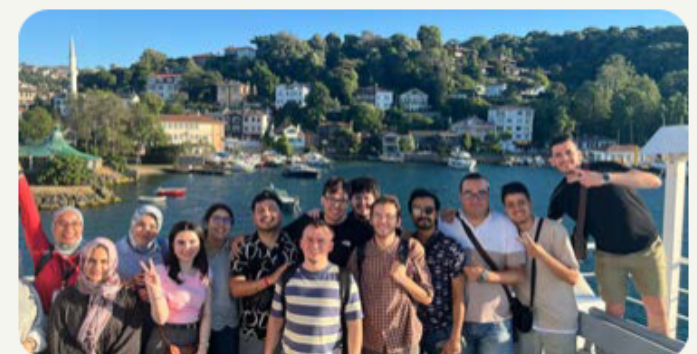


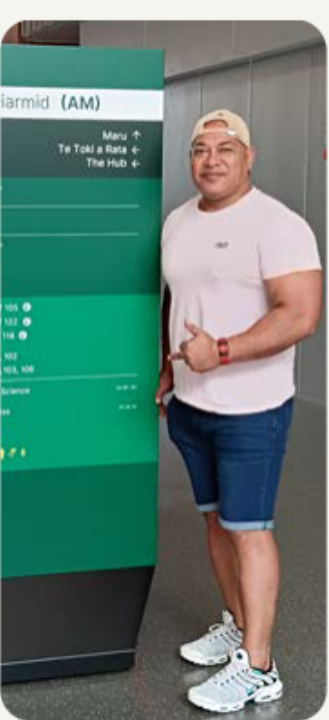
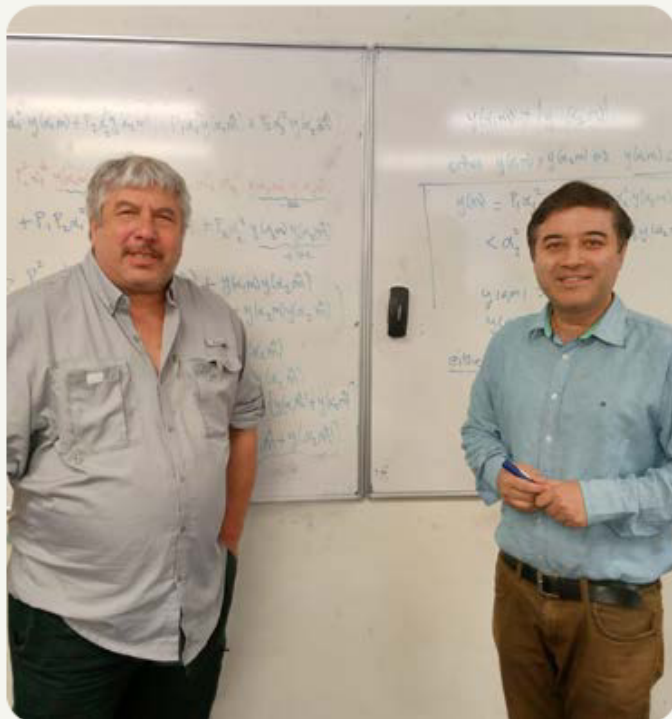
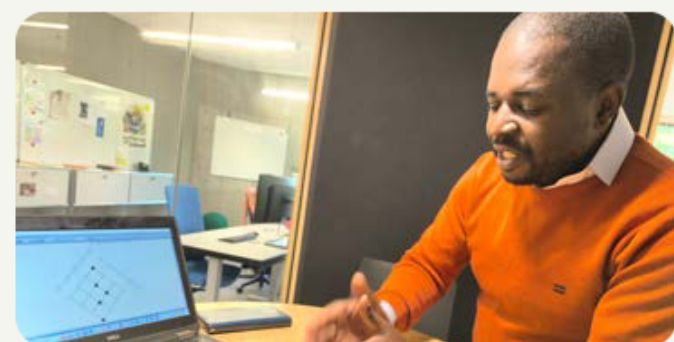
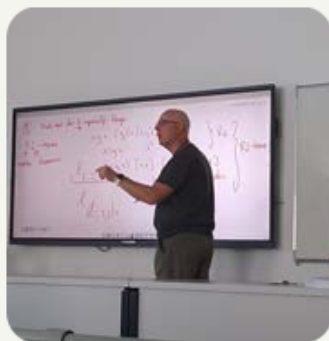
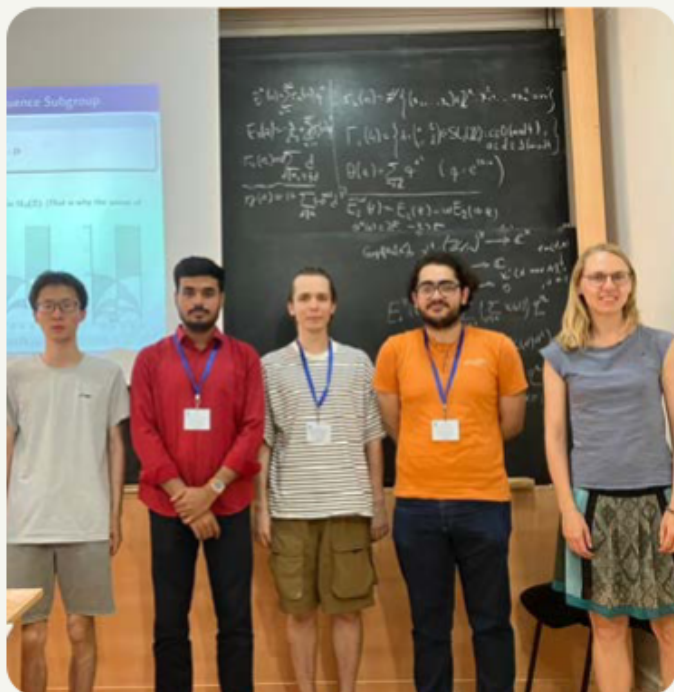
PHOTO GALLERY

2025













SUPPORT MATHEMATICAL GROWTH WORLDWIDE

Your contribution helps create opportunities for talented mathematicians in developing countries.

Join us in strengthening research, collaboration, and education across the Global South.

GET IN TOUCH!

**International Mathematical Union
Commission for Developing Countries**

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