



Curious Minds

Girls in science, technology,
engineering and mathematics



Mentoring opportunity

Do you want
to see more females
study and work in the
fields of
Science,
Technology,
Engineering and
Mathematics?

Can you help
make it happen?

Join us

We are looking for 40 enthusiastic women from science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) backgrounds to join our mentoring program for 2017/2018.

You will be supporting bright, Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australian female students, from Years 9 and 10, with the aim to encourage their continuance of STEM studies.

Time commitment

- webinar training (2hrs one evening late November 2017, 2hrs one evening in March 2018)
- mentor training and meet your mentee, at UNSW on Thursday 14 December 2017
- contact with mentee at least fortnightly but not less than monthly
- wrap up session, at ANU on Thursday 12 July 2018

Express your interest online - www.asi.edu.au/curiousmindsmentor/ before **Sunday 8 October 2017**

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What is the Curious Minds program?

Curious Minds is a hands-on extension and mentoring program to ignite girls' passion in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

The program was developed in response to the Australian Government's 2014 *Restoring the focus on STEM* initiative, which aims to support improved science, mathematics and digital technology education in schools and promote improved results in international tests and increased take-up of STEM subjects at the post-secondary level.

The Australian Mathematics Trust (AMT) and Australian Science Innovations (ASI) were jointly granted funding to develop a new residential and mentoring program for girls focusing on STEM learning areas.

Girls from rural, disadvantaged or Indigenous backgrounds will be particularly targeted.

Curious Minds 2017/18

We have invited 60 highly capable girls in years 9 and 10 who have an interest in STEM learning areas.

The girls will:

- be highly capable, hard working and apply themselves
- be curious and have a love of learning
- have potential but may lack confidence in their own abilities
- be willing to engage
- have the maturity to live away from home for four nights

Students are identified through results of extension programs and competitions run by AMT and ASI.

The program will consist of two camps either side of the mentoring program:

- summer residential camp, 11 – 15 December 2017
- mentoring program, from December to July 2018
- winter residential camp, 11 – 14 July 2018

The camps, to be held at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) and the Australian National University (ANU), will involve keynote addresses by prominent women in STEM, a panel discussion, lectures, laboratory sessions, tutorials and excursions.

Funding

Curious Minds is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education and Training through the Restoring the Focus on STEM programme and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and jointly administered by the [Australian Mathematics Trust](#) and [Australian Science Innovations](#)

About the Australian Mathematics Trust

The Australian Mathematics Trust is a national not-for-profit organisation whose purpose is to enrich the teaching and learning of mathematics for students of all standards. They hold mathematics and informatics competitions, administer enrichment activities, conduct workshops for students and teachers, and publish books on mathematical enrichment for Australian and international students. The AMT selects and supports Australia's international mathematics and informatics Olympiad teams.

About Australian Science Innovations

Australian Science Innovations is an independent not-for-profit organisation committed to providing high quality science extension programs for secondary students and teachers. It's mission is to inspire, challenge and raise the aspirations of students in science and encourages students to study science and consider careers in science and science related fields through the delivery of three key programs: the Australian Science Olympiad Competition, the Big Science Competition and the coordination of the Australian delegation to the Asian Science Camp.

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Mentoring program overview

We recognise that the success and influence of a residential program can be greatly increased by ongoing follow-up.

The mentoring program is designed to provide real support for students who have enrolled in the Curious Minds program.

We are looking for 40 mentors from a variety of STEM fields to join our program from December 2017 to July 2018.

Mentors will receive full training, mentoring resources and ongoing support.

The mentoring program will see each student matched with a female mentor based on STEM area of interest and, where possible, geographical location. Together they will construct personal goals for the student. This might include discussing study options and career pathways, undertaking further extension work with support from their mentor, developing ideas based on learnings from the camp or working on a project.

For those mentees interested in pursuing science, this may include encouragement to use the [Olympiads Online](#), which provide support for students wishing to sit the Australian Science Olympiad exams. It is hoped that a significant number of the girls will go on to sit the exams, and potentially be selected on merit to attend the Australian Science Olympiad Summer School.

Those with an interest in informatics will be able to use similar online resources to help them prepare for the Australian Informatics Olympiad (AIO), whilst budding mathematicians will be provided with resources to assist them in preparing for the Olympiad invitational program.

Payment and expenses

This role is a voluntary position. The program will not provide payment for time spent mentoring, nor reimbursement for time lost from employment.

The program will cover the following costs:

- return flights from your nearest airport to Sydney for the summer and to Canberra for the winter camp, or bus travel where applicable
- meals whilst attending UNSW and ANU
- university style accommodation for the night of 13 and/or 14 December 2017 at UNSW, where a same day return flight cannot be scheduled
- accommodation for the night of 11 and/or 12 July 2018 at University House ANU, where a same day return flight cannot be scheduled
- reimbursement for the fee paid to obtain a Working with Children Check

Mentors are required to cover the costs incurred getting from home to airport or bus station and their return. Local mentors may be required to cover the cost to attend the camp.

Travel

The program manager will make all travel, meal and accommodation arrangements in consultation.

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Goal

To develop a relationship with the mentee that stimulates her curiosity, inspires her enthusiasm and motivates her interest in STEM studies and careers.

Role

- be a professional role model through friendliness, clear communication and setting appropriate boundaries
- actively listen, providing support and encouragement
- acknowledge the mentee's strengths and talents, and encourage them to find ways to nurture them
- build mentee's skills in critical thinking, logical reasoning and problem-solving
- point to and encourage mentee to seek STEM role models and explore a wide variety of STEM related careers
- empower mentee, helping them to build resilience, courage and confidence
- link mentee to resources and information

Responsibilities

- attend training sessions and follow-up sessions
- maintain an appropriate relationship with the mentee
- communicate with program manager if difficulties arise or support is needed
- participate in the evaluation process

Time commitment

- Webinar training
- mentor training and meet your mentee, Thursday 15 December 2017 at UNSW, Sydney
- contact with mentee at least fortnightly but not less than monthly, for approximately 30 to 60 minutes per contact. Contact can be via phone call, Skype, email, visit to mentor's work place or mentee's school
- Wrap up sessions Wednesday 5 July 2018 at UNSW, Sydney

- training from a professional mentoring consultant
- telephone and email support from program manager, as required
- mentoring tips emailed regularly
- online mentor forum for questions and discussion

Benefits

- make a difference in the life of a girl with a curious mind
- contribute to the future career of a potential STEM professional
- personal professional development
- a rewarding experience!

Selection criteria

1. successful proven interest in STEM activities
2. desire and capability to work with young people, in particular high school students
3. understanding and agreement to mentor responsibilities as listed in mentor role description
4. completed Working with Children Check (or state equivalent)
5. ability to commit to time as described

How to apply

Complete the **Expression of Interest** found at www.asi.edu.au/curiousmindsmentor/

Applications close midnight Sunday 8 October 2017

Suitable applicants will be contacted to arrange a telephone interview to further discuss the position. Reference and background checks under the NSW Working with Children legislation will apply.

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Working with Children Check

Mentors are required to hold (or be willing to obtain) a Working with Children check. Although working in NSW, the relevant registration for your state is acceptable. For information related to your state please refer to:

ACT: Working with Vulnerable People

- Free for volunteers
- www.ors.act.gov.au/community

NSW: Working with Children Check

- Free for volunteers
- www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au

NT: Working with Children Clearance Notice

- \$5.00 for volunteers
- www.workingwithchildren.nt.gov.au/

QLD: Blue card

- Free for volunteers
- www.bluecard.qld.gov.au

SA: Child-related employment screening

- \$56.10 for volunteers
- www.dcsi.sa.gov.au/services/screening/what-kind-of-screening-do-i-need#CRES

TAS: Working with Children Registration

- \$17.76 for volunteers
- www.justice.tas.gov.au/working_with_children/volunteers

VIC: Working with Children Check

- Free for volunteers
- www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/

WA: Working with Children Check

- \$11.00 for volunteers
- www.checkwwc.wa.gov.au/checkwwc

Once you have been informed of your acceptance as a mentor you should apply for your check without delay.

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For more information please contact

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Please circulate this around your STEM network