

BANFF INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH STATION

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

THE BANFF INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH STATION
FOR MATHEMATICAL INNOVATION AND DISCOVERY
WELCOMES PROPOSALS ¹
FOR ITS 2003 OPERATING YEAR
(MARCH – DECEMBER 2003).

A JOINT CANADA-US INITIATIVE COORDINATED BY
The Pacific Institute for the Mathematical Sciences (PIMS)
The Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI)

PENDING THE SUPPORT OF THE
Natural Science and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC)
US National Science Foundation (NSF)
Alberta Science Research Authority (ASRA)

<http://www.pims.math.ca/birs>

¹All BIRS activities are subject to expected financing

About The Banff International Research Station (BIRS)

- BIRS is a collaborative Canada-US venture that provides the infrastructure for hosting workshops and meetings for creative interaction and the exchange of ideas, knowledge, and methods within the MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES and their related areas.
- BIRS is a self-contained facility located on the site of the Banff Centre in Banff, Alberta. It offers (single-room) accommodation, meals, lecture and discussion rooms, high-speed internet connection, and leisure space for 40 to 50 people in a magnificent mountain setting. ²
- The objective of BIRS is to support **research and innovation, dissemination, and educational activities** in all areas of science, and technology involved with the mathematical and statistical sciences, including, though not necessarily restricted to, algebra, number theory, geometry and topology, analysis, foundations, classical and modern applied mathematics, industrial mathematics, theoretical and applied statistics, the mathematics of risk, the mathematics of information and computer science, mathematical physics, bio-mathematics and environmental mathematics, and mathematics of the geological and atmospheric sciences.
- Accommodation and travel: The use of facilities is provided *gratis* for all Programs run through BIRS. The meal costs are included in most but not all BIRS activities (see specific programs, below). Currently, travel expenses to and from the Banff Centre are the responsibility of the participants/organizers. An effort is being made to find funds for the partial support of travel.
- Banff is served by the Calgary International Airport. Regular shuttle service runs between the Airport and Banff, a trip of about 1.5 hours.

Guidelines for Proposals

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS FOR 5-DAY WORKSHOPS AND SUMMER OR THEMATIC SCHOOLS FOR 2003 IS OCTOBER 1, 2001. Proposals for other activities (2 day workshops, research in teams, or focused research groups for the year 2003) may be made at any time. BIRS operations in 2003 are from March 15 through December 18.

THE PREFERRED METHOD OF SUBMISSION IS THE ONLINE FORM WHICH IS AVAILABLE ON THE BIRS WEBSITE <http://pims.math.ca/birs>. Alternatively you may submit a proposal in writing to either of the addresses given below. In this case we would appreciate an ELECTRONIC version of the proposal sent by email to birsprop@pims.math.ca. It may be a plain text file (best), a Latex file (make sure that you include all the relevant macros to read it), or an attached Microsoft Word File.

- Proposals are reviewed on a competitive basis on the criteria of excellence, relevance, & timeliness.
- Each program should have a minimum of two Organizers, preferably including at least one from a Canadian and one from a US institution.
- Proposals should be restricted in length to about 7 printed pages in total. Please include the following items:
 - (i) Title of proposal:
 - (ii) Type of meeting:(5-day workshop, etc)
 - (iii) Organizer(s): (Give complete affiliations for all organizers as well as a contact phone number and contact email.)
 - (iv) A short overview of the subject area.
 - (v) A statement of the objectives of the workshop/program and an indication of its relevance, importance, and timeliness.
 - (vi) Total number of participants.

²Library connectivity and service with the University of Alberta and the University of Calgary are also available.

- (vii) A list of possible participants and their institutions. The list is important to the review process, but you will not be bound to it.
- (viii) Indications of preferences for dates, and also impossible dates.
- (ix) All proposals are seen by the scientific boards of BIRS, MSRI, and PIMS. Nonetheless, if you think that this proposal would be of special interest to the MSRI or the PIMS Scientific Board, please indicate this.

- Additional Comments

Note: Participation in the programs run at BIRS is by invitation only. The process of invitation is through BIRS at the advice of the organizers.

Confirmation of Submission: We will confirm receipt of your submission by sending a copy of it to the contact email address that you gave in item 3. In the case of online submissions this should be within three working days of your submission. For enquiries please email us at birsprop@pims.math.ca.

Addresses: If you are NOT using the online form please send your submission to one the following:

BIRS Program Coordinator
PIMS
1933 West Mall Annex
Vancouver BC V6T 1Z2
Canada

BIRS Program Coordinator
MSRI
1000 Centennial Drive
Berkeley, CA, 94720-5070
United States

THE PROGRAMS

5-Day Workshops:

- The 5-Day Workshops, are the basic program format of BIRS. They run Sunday through Thursday (arrival Saturday pm, departure Thursday pm).
- Accommodation, the use of the facilities of BIRS (lecture halls, internet facilities, etc.) and meals will be provided at no cost to the participants of workshops.
- Number of participants: up to 40.
- A few Half-sized Workshops with up to 20 people will be considered.
- The organizers are required to submit, at the completion of their program, a 10-15 page article (possibly written by one of the participants) surveying the status of the subject in the context of the events of the Workshop. These will be bound into annual volumes documenting the activities of BIRS. In addition a number of the main talks will be video-taped for dissemination through video-streaming, and for archival purposes.

2-day Meetings:

- 2-day meetings normally run Friday & Saturday (arrival Thursday pm, departure Saturday pm).
- Number of participants – flexible, up to 40.
- Accommodation, the use of the facilities of BIRS (lecture halls, internet facilities, etc.) will be provided at no cost to the participants of the workshops. Unless indicated otherwise, meals are the responsibility of the organizers and participants. ³

³The Banff Centre has a dining facility that operates a buffet style service (breakfast, lunch, and dinner). This is available on a pay-as-you-go basis. The main townsite of Banff (10 minutes walk) has many restaurants.

Research in Teams:

- This program offers teams of 2–4 researchers the opportunity to live and work at the BIRS facility for periods of 2–4 weeks, in order to concentrate on their research or to finish major projects.
- Teams should consist of individuals from different institutions.
- Accommodation (single room), meals and a dedicated discussion room with a computer workstation are provided⁴.
- Proposals should detail the area of collaboration, list the team members and their institutions, and justify the case for using BIRS.

Focused Research Groups (“Aspen Mode”):

This is the opportunity for larger groups of researchers to collaborate over an extended period of time around a coherent group of problems or ideas.

- A typical configuration might be groups of 10 to 15 mathematicians each working at BIRS for a period of 2 to 4 weeks. Up to 8 of them may be in residence at BIRS while others—especially those with accompanying families—should use the extensive accommodation facilities in the Banff area. The membership of the team is also permitted to roll-over to allow more flexible arrangements.
- Accommodation (single room) and meals are provided for resident members. Two dedicated discussion rooms with computer work-stations are provided for the use of the group.
- Proposals should detail the area of collaboration, list the team members and their institutions, and justify the case for using the BIRS.

Summer Schools and Training Camps:

Schools are pedagogical by definition, but may be aimed at any level from elementary or high school students or teachers, through undergraduate and graduate levels, or preparation for Institute thematic programs, etc.

- BIRS welcomes proposals for schools of 1 week to 12 days in duration.
- Maximum number of participants 40.
- Season: normally, but not necessarily, summer.
- Schools are typically organized by institutes and professional societies and a financial contribution to BIRS may be requested from the sponsoring organizations.

Important Information

- DEADLINES
 - (i) All proposals for 5-day Workshops and Summer Schools must be received by October 1, 2001.
 - (ii) Proposals for Research in Teams, Focused Research Groups, and for the 2-Day Workshops are also requested to be submitted by October 1. However, BIRS is prepared to consider requests for such events on the fly, assuming availability of space.
 - (iii) Proposals should be made using the Online Forms if possible.
- SPECIAL NEEDS
 - (i) BIRS and the Banff Centre are both wheel-chair accessible institutions.
 - (ii) BIRS is not set up for family or guest situations. Individuals who have special requests should enquire with the Program Coordinator. The Banff Centre has extensive accommodation facilities beyond those offered by BIRS. These may be used for families/couples, etc, and also for extending visits to the Banff area for personal reasons. Please check the Banff Centre web-site.

⁴Participants with families should arrange accommodation and meals elsewhere in the Banff Centre or in near-by guest houses, at their own expense.