

CHOOSE MATHS = MENTORING

AN **AMSI** SCHOOLS PROJECT

DELIVERED BY



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WHAT IS

CHOOSEMATHS?

CHOOSE**MATHS** is a five-year partnership between the Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute (AMSI) and the BHP Foundation. Working with students, parents and teachers, the project aims to turn around community attitude and participation in mathematics and statistics as a career choice, especially for girls and young women.

The five-year national initiative will contribute to the health of the mathematics pipeline in Australia from school through university and out to industry and the workplace by:

- Providing professional development and school support in 120 schools across Australia;
- Hosting the annual CHOOSE**MATHS** Awards for excellence;
- Developing a national mathematical career awareness campaign to highlight the interesting careers that exist for mathematically capable graduates; and
- Developing a “Women in Maths” Network of inspiring role models and mathematics ambassadors.

CHOOSE**MATHS** MENTORING is part of the Women in Maths Network.

WHAT MADE YOU

CHOOSE MATHS?

WHO TRIGGERED YOUR LIGHT-BULB MOMENT?

Was it a favourite teacher who excited you about a maths problem? Maybe somebody recognised your talent when it was hidden from even you? Or you met somebody whose journey opened your eyes to a career you had never considered before?

Currently only 20 per cent of girls are choosing Intermediate Mathematics in Year 12, and a mere 6 per cent Advanced/Specialist Mathematics. Continuing into university, this trend sees women account for just one quarter of Australian mathematics undergraduates.

CHOOSEMATHS is looking for enthusiastic individuals to join our mentoring program and turn the tide on perceptions of mathematics among high school girls. Whether you are a university student, a researcher, or somebody using mathematics in the workplace, if you have a background in maths and enjoy telling others about its beauty and applicability, then you may have what it takes to change somebody's life.

A MENTOR
CAN MAKE
A HUGE
DIFFERENCE

WHY BECOME A

CHOOSEMATHS

MENTOR?

GIVE YOUNG WOMEN CONFIDENCE Through mentorship our program aims to foster the participation of Year 11 and 12 girls in higher levels of mathematics; encourage girls to pursue maths, science and engineering at university; and increase the number of young women moving into (and staying in) mathematical and scientific careers. As a mentor you can give young women the confidence they need to carry on with mathematics, and can show how and why mathematics is important to the world we live in.

BECOME PART OF A COMMUNITY The mentoring program will create communities, with each mentor assigned to a group containing other university students and career professionals. This means you gain a support network of mathematical professionals and access to peer-to-peer mentoring at the same time as you change the lives of younger students. This also provides high school students in the group with exposure to a broad range of experiences and opinions, taking the pressure off any individual to have all the answers.

BE PART OF A COMMUNITY

RECOGNISE YOUR IMPACT Participants of mentoring programs often talk about the reward of seeing their profession or studies through the eyes of their mentees, with this new perspective reaffirming the importance of the work they are doing. On those frustrating days in the office, the lab or the library, when you are wondering why you do what you are doing, the opportunity to engage with younger people is a great reminder of those forgotten reasons we made the choices we did and the impact we are making in society.

INCREASE YOUR SKILL SET If you have ever thought about going into teaching – either in a formal or informal way – then mentoring is a great place to start. It will give you a chance to see what working with young people is like and to gain skills to put on your CV.

WHAT DOES

CHOOSEMATHS

MENTORING INVOLVE?

CONNECT As a mentor you will be matched to a 'mentoring circle' including ten female students from Years 9 and 10 and three or four other mentors. The mentoring team will endeavor to make each circle as diverse as possible so that the students see a variety of experiences and opinions.

CONTRIBUTE Mentoring circles communicate using the web platform Zoom, where mentors and mentees can chat over voice, text and video. There are ten sessions per year, usually once a week or once a fortnight over lunchtime.

ATTEND At least once annually we will invite you to attend an event in person. This will be an opportunity to meet your mentees and the other members of the circle face-to-face. It is also a chance to meet up with other mentoring circles to share experiences and ideas, to build professional networks and to meet the **CHOOSEMATHS** team. (Travel expenses to be subsidised by AMSI.)

COMMIT Signing up to be a mentor carries a commitment to attend at least half of the ten mentoring sessions and to attend the training that is provided for mentors. Training is delivered through a 2-day workshop in Melbourne or through online webinars.

APPLY As part of your application you will be asked to provide two references from people who know you well, and we will conduct a short phone interview with you, in order to verify your suitability as a mentor.

COMPLIANCE Once your initial application has been accepted you will be required to undergo a Working with Children check in your state or territory. Without this certificate you will not be able to participate in the mentoring program. More details on the requirements for each state and territory are listed on the accompanying document.

EVALUATE To help us make the mentoring program a success, we will ask you to fill out periodic evaluation forms, telling us about your experiences and your suggestions for changes.

WHO WILL I
MENTOR?

MEET YOUR CIRCLE

Mentors will work with students chosen from secondary schools within their state or territory. The students will be girls in Years 9 and 10 who have been identified by their teachers as likely to benefit from having additional support to boost their confidence and motivation in mathematics.

Within each mentoring circle, the mentees will all belong to one or two schools, while the mentors may be more widely spread geographically. When pairing you with schools, location will be taken into account, but we will also be trying to ensure a range of interests, backgrounds, ages and career paths within each circle.

YEAR 9 ←

YEAR 10 ←

WHAT WE LOOK FOR IN A

CHOOSEMATHS

MENTOR

- Enthusiastic about maths
- In a maths-related career or degree program
- A Good communicator
- Wanting to make a difference
- Ready with advice
- Able to discuss the mathematics they use
- Happy to discuss their study and career
- Open-minded
- Empathetic
- Compassionate
- Committed to staying for at least 6 months
- Work sensitively & professionally with young people
- Willing to travel once or twice per year

APPLY TO BE A

CHOOSEMATHS MENTOR

DOES THIS SOUND LIKE YOU?

If so, we encourage you to apply today!

Simply fill out the application form on our website
www.choosemaths.org.au/mentoringapplynow

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