The Fields Institute for Research in Mathematical Sciences
Principal Sponsoring University Benefits

Fields Institute activities are open to the mathematical sciences community, and proposals for activities at the Institute are solicited internationally. However, the agreement between a Principal Sponsoring University and the Institute establishes a closer relationship of great mutual benefit.

Principal Sponsoring Universities maintain their membership through payment of an annual membership fee, set at $75,000 for 2014-15. The amount of this fee is subject to annual review by the Fields Institute’s Board of Directors.

Following are some of the numerous benefits of this partnership to the University.

1. Scientific Activity

1.1. Thematic and Focus Programs

Faculty members of the Principal Sponsoring University are often lead organizers of Thematic and Focus Programs. These programs form the core scientific activity of the Institute. Once approved by the Fields Scientific Advisory Panel, they receive funds currently ranging from $75,000 for a one-month Focus Program to $350,000 for a six-month Thematic Program. Organizers involved in teaching graduate courses during a program are eligible for release time subject to an agreement between the Institute and their home Department.

1.2. General Scientific Activity

Each year, the Institute supports over 50 workshops and conferences of variable length, including summer schools for graduate and undergraduate students. These take place either at the Institute or at partner universities and cover an astonishing range of areas in the mathematical sciences. Faculty members from the Principal Sponsoring University have priority in submitting proposals, which, once approved, receive funding and full logistic support, including planning, invitations, registration, and promotion.

1.3. Member Services

Faculty members from the Principal Sponsoring University participating in Institute programs are entitled to the services the Institute provides to core program participants, including office space, IT services and library privileges. In addition, they can apply for sabbatical stays at the Institute, which, subject to space availability, offers these services.
1.4. Distinguished Visitors

The Institute can facilitate invitations to distinguished scientists who are participating in its programs and activities to give colloquia or seminars at the Principal Sponsoring University, and contribute towards their travel expenses.

1.5. Institute Publications

The Principal Sponsoring University receives, free of charge, one copy of each volume of the Fields Institute Communications and Monographs Series, published during the period of partnership. The University also receives copies of the Institute newsletter, Fields Notes, and of its Annual Report.

2. Postdoctoral Support

2.1. Principal Sponsoring University Postdoctoral Fellowship Program

The Institute provides $25,000 each year to support a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Principal Sponsoring University (the amount may also be split between two Fellows). The successful candidates are chosen by the Principal Sponsoring University and approved by the Institute Directorate, independently of programs at the Institute.

2.2. Fields-Ontario Postdoctoral Fellowship Program

This prestigious Program offers two-year Fellowships with a stipend of $50,000 per annum, with a contribution of 75% by the Institute. Typically two such Fellowships are awarded each year. The Fellowships involve a semester at the Fields Institute for participation in a Thematic Programs, and eighteen months (before or after the Program) at one or more Principal Sponsoring Universities. The successful candidates are chosen by the Fields Directorate, in consultation with the Thematic Program organizers.

3. Training, Educational, and Recruitment Opportunities

3.1. Graduate Student Support

Undergraduate and graduate students from the Principal Sponsoring University have priority to apply for support to participate in Institute activities including Thematic and Focus Programs, summer schools, problem solving workshops and the Fields Undergraduate Summer Research Program.

3.2. Credit for Graduate Courses

The Institute can assist students from the Principal Sponsoring University to receive credit for courses offered during Thematic Programs and summer schools by providing records of attendance and evaluation, subject to approval from their home University. Students from Principal Sponsoring University can also take graduate courses for credit remotely via the unique FieldsLive interactive webcasting system.
3.3. Recruitment

The Principal Sponsoring University benefits from the opportunity to recruit at all levels from the pool of highly qualified participants in Institute activities: undergraduate and graduate students going into graduate or postdoctoral programs, postdoctoral fellows and junior scientists seeking faculty positions, as well as senior scientists attracted by the Institute and its partners.

4. Recognition and Involvement in Institute Governance and Research Administration

4.1 Recognition

The Principal Sponsoring University is recognized in the Newsletter, the Annual Report and public releases, as well as on the Institute website.

4.1. Representation on the Fields Institute’s Corporation and Board of Directors

The Principal Sponsoring University is entitled to appoint up to three voting representatives to the Fields Institute’s Corporation. Members of the Corporation are eligible to the Fields Institute’s Board of Directors, which typically includes several members from Principal Sponsoring Universities.

4.2. Partner University Meeting and AGM Banquet

Each year the Institute organizes a meeting with representatives from its partner Universities to discuss policies and directions. The University representatives on the Fields Institute’s Corporation, as well as some other University representatives, are also invited to the dinner banquet following the Institute’s Annual General Meeting.