



AIMS

African Institute for
Mathematical Sciences
SCHOOLS ENRICHMENT CENTRE

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MARGARET BABIRYE BURSARY

AIMSSEC Mathematical Thinking Course

MAKERERE UNIVERSITY, KAMPALA, UGANDA

3rd – 12th January 2019 followed by 3 months distance learning

Extended period for applications.

About the Margaret Babirye Project

The Margaret Babirye Project is named for a Ugandan woman living and working in the US, who, through her generous spirit and selfless dedication has been an exceptional ambassador for her country. In return, we who have been grateful to her would like to make a contribution in our own field to her country.

Aims

The Margaret Babirye project seeks to instill and disseminate a culture of sharing and continuing professional development for mathematics teachers in Uganda.

The programme

Forty primary and lower secondary teachers will have the opportunity to take part in the AIMSSEC Mathematical Thinking course in January 2019. The teachers will be selected to maximise the potential impact on mathematics teaching in Uganda. The considerations we will be taking into account are the following:

- The teachers selected for will be enthusiastic and committed teachers with a desire to explore and share new teaching methods.
- The teachers selected will be well supported by their Head Teachers.
- The schools the teachers work in should be open to children from all economic levels. Schools in disadvantaged areas will have priority.
- The teachers selected will represent geographical districts from all parts of Uganda.
- The AIMING HIGH Teacher Network will enable the teachers to continue to support each other in their continuing sharing of good teaching practice.
- A few teachers from other East African countries will be included.

About AIMSSEC

AIMSSEC is the Schools Enrichment Centre of AIMS (African Institute for Mathematical Sciences) and was established in 2003. The objective of AIMSSEC is to play a key role in the extension of educational opportunities for disadvantaged communities in Africa; and to raise standards by improving the quality of teaching and learning of mathematics.

AIMSSEC is a community of academics, researchers, teacher trainers, school teachers and subject advisers; all working in mathematics education who share a commitment to lifelong learning and a dedication to improving the teaching and learning of mathematics. The AIMSSEC community involves all those who have taught on the AIMSSEC courses as well as former students. There is a shared belief that we must learn from mathematics education research and that teaching for the 21st century must be different from the past because different skills are needed in this radically changed and rapidly changing society.

The **Mathematical Thinking Problem Solving and IT in the Teaching and Learning of Mathematics** (MT) course for teachers and subject advisers involves a 10-day residential course at Makerere University with training to run workshops for other teachers, followed by 3 months of distance learning. All participants are expected to be in residence for the full duration of the residential course.

A **Margaret Babirye Bursary for Ugandan teachers** will cover the cost of all tuition, stationery, accommodation and food during the residential programme, transport from home to the course venue, learning resources to use in school and tuition for the distance learning course.

At the residential course, sessions run from 8:15 to 20:00 each day, starting with an 80 minute mathematics plenary session **where all the teachers from the different phase groups learn together**. These sessions involve mathematics that is new to all the teachers and that has relevance to teaching mathematics in all phases. Plenaries may include for example: designing tessellations and studying their occurrence in African art; making mathematical models; people mathematics, for example in data handling and graphs; problem solving involving systematic and logical thinking; challenges faced when teaching learners using English as a language of instruction; reflecting on how chance (probability) affects our daily lives; building and using geoboards; playing mathematical games and reflecting on their value in teaching and learning.

There is a test at the end of the residential course to assess the content learnt during the course. Each participant is expected to complete 3 assignments following the residential course. The assignments are designed to encourage the participants to reflect on their teaching practice as they embark on a journey of lifelong learning.

High standards are maintained by a team of local and international experts in mathematics education. The international team work as unpaid volunteers. The course has been conducted 29 times since 2004 for over 2000 teachers from different provinces in South Africa.

The **purpose of the MT course** is to secure and extend knowledge and understanding of mathematics and to develop pedagogical insights that lead to inquiry-based learning. There is an emphasis on **planning for learning** (rather than planning for teaching), differentiation, inclusive learning, progression, reflection on one's practice using journals and the use of formative assessment tools to identify the strengths and weaknesses of learners.

The **target audience** is teachers who want to change from the traditional "chalk and talk" approach to a more learner-centred style and to share what they have learned with other teachers in their own communities. These teachers must want to be enthused with a fresh approach to teaching and learning mathematics and to be part of a mathematics community to try new ideas. They may be under-qualified or well qualified and intending to further their studies. **Applicants must be practising mathematics teachers with a teaching qualification.**

A certificate is awarded to those who satisfactorily complete the MT course which is endorsed by the South African Council for Educators (SACE) for 15 professional development points. The MT course is also used as a **selection instrument** for enrolment on the further professional development courses offered by AIMSSEC.

The MT course includes number, algebra, shapes, measures, data handling and probability and IT sessions to introduce teachers to using technology in teaching mathematics and in their professional work. It is offered to two groups of teachers focussing on teaching (i) ages 10 to 12, (ii) ages 12 to 15.

Comprehensive notes are provided for all taught sessions and the teachers learn how to make cost effective teaching and learning resources. At the end of the course all learning resources, powerpoint presentations and free software are provided to each teacher on a flash drive.

Admission to the course depends on the support of the applicant's school principal and the head of mathematics.

For further details please email Toni Beardon lab11@cam.ac.uk

If you are interested in applying for this special AIMSSEC course please complete the application form and attach certified copies of your ID, payslip and main teaching qualifications; then email the documents to Marjorie Batchelor mb139@cam.ac.uk to reach her by 1 September 2018.

There are still places for primary teachers and a few lower secondary teachers. As most of the applicants who have already applied are men, preference will be given to women. Teachers who apply soon will have the best chance of acceptance.

Applications will be considered from teachers from other countries, and from privileged schools, on a self-funding basis on the condition that they commit to running workshops for other teachers from disadvantaged schools in their areas. The total cost is USD650 plus travel expenses.

Eligible teachers who are not offered a place on the course in Kampala in January 2019 will be offered a place on one of the other proposed courses in 2019/20 in Rwanda, Kenya and Tanzania, subject to our success in fundraising.

Toni Beardon 2 August 2018

MARGARET BABIRYE BURSARY LETTER TO UGANDAN TEACHERS FROM MARJ BATCHELOR

Dear Teacher,

I am very pleased you are interested in taking part in the Margaret Babirye project.

Participation in this project involves:

- Taking the AIMSSEC Mathematical Thinking course in January 2019 at Makerere University, followed by three months of distance learning;
- A commitment to continued shared development of these principles and ideas with colleagues in your school, neighbouring schools and in your community;

Application for the programme requires:

- A completed AIMSSEC application form (form attached see page 5);
- A reference of support for you from your Head Teacher (see page 9)
- A letter of application from you.

The completed application form and your covering letter should be emailed to [Marj Batchelor mb139@cam.ac.uk](mailto:Marj.Batchelor@cam.ac.uk), subject field "Margaret Babirye Project" and must be received no later than 1 September. The supporting letter from your Head Teacher should be e-mailed to Marj Batchelor directly, subject field "Margaret Babirye Project" and must also be received by 1 September.

A completed application implies a commitment to take the place if selected.

Decisions will be made by 20th September.

The letter of application from you will help us ensure that the opportunity is offered to those who by their abilities, experiences, and the environment in which they teach will make up a team with the greatest potential to have an impact on the communities they serve. Therefore, please tell us about yourself and your experiences. In particular,

- Please tell us about your own background. Did you grow up and train in a city, or are you from a rural background?
- Do tell us about your mathematical training, where you studied and what level you achieved. Advanced studies in mathematics is perhaps less important than enthusiasm for teaching, but it is helpful if we understand your mathematical interests.
- Please tell us about your school. Is it a city school or in a rural area? How many students are in a class? What backgrounds do your students come from?
- Please tell us about any other teaching experience.
- If you are a friend or member of Margaret Babirye's family, please tell us about that connection too.

Best wishes,
Marj Batchelor

MARGARET BABIRYE BURSARY APPLICATION FORM

(3rd – 12th January 2019 at Makerere University)

Photocopy this application form, fill it in, then scan the completed form as a pdf and send it to Marj Batchelor mb139@cam.ac.uk . Use block letters and ticks to fill in all 5 sections of the application form. The checklist on page 7 will help you to make sure the application is complete.

1. Personal Information

Title:	Mr.		Ms.		Mrs.		Other (specify)	
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Gender:	Male		Female	
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First names:	
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Surname:		Initial(s)							
Y Y Y Y M M D D									

ID number:		D.O.B							
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Citizenship:	Ugandan	Other (specify)			
Population group:	White	Black	Coloured	Asian	Other (specify)
Home language:					

For how many years have you taught mathematics?

2. Contact details

Cell phone number:	
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E-mail address:	
(Required)	

Postal address:		Post code:	

Next of kin:	
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Next of kin's Tel:	
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FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Received

Approved:
Phase:

Student Number

3. Details of current employment

Position:	Teacher	H. O. D.	Other <small>(specify)</small>	
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School Principal:																				
Principal's Tel:																				

Name of school:																				
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School address:																									
																		Post code:							

District:																				
Province:																				

Please specify the classes you teach mathematics to, the number you teach in a single class, and their ages.		
Class	Largest class you each together in one room	Age range

4. Main Qualifications

Details of main qualifications					
Period		Name of University, Technikon or College	Name of degree / diploma / certificate	Completed Yes / No	Teacher Number
From year	to year				

Highest level of mathematics studied:
(Specify course / module / grade)

5. Miscellanea

	Yes	No
1. Do you have any special dietary requirements? <i>If yes please specify below:</i>		
2. Do you have any disability? <i>If yes please specify below:</i>		
3. Do you have any medical condition? <i>If yes please specify below:</i>		
4. Do you object to AIMSSEC using your photograph in marketing materials?		

REFERENCE

Please ask your Principal (or line Manager), as a senior person acquainted with your professional and academic work, to fill in the reference check form (page 9) on your behalf, indicating your professional standing and general suitability as a **mathematics teacher** to undertake this course. This reference must be sent independently by the referee to Marjorie Batchelor mb139@cam.ac.uk as a pdf attachment to an email. 'Open' testimonials are not acceptable.

ACCOMODATION

Accommodation is in a hotel near the university and meals will be served on the university campus. Teachers may have to share a room. All accommodation, food and tuition fees are covered for by the bursaries offered to teachers on the course. No children or other family members can be accommodated.

Checklist

Please go through the checklist to make sure you understand what is written in the application form and what you need to do. The checklist will also help you to make sure your application is complete. You can contact Toni Beardon lab11@cam.ac.uk if you have any questions.

Tick when done

1. Have you completed all 5 sections of this form?	
2. Have you noted the closing date for applications? 1 September 2018	
3. Have you attached certified copies of the following documents?	
a) Letter of application to Marj Batchelor (pdf) (see page 4)	
b) Photocopy of ID	
c) Photocopy of payslip	
d) Certified copy of teaching qualification	
e) Other university accredited qualifications	
4. Has your school principal sent a reference letter of support for you?	
5. Have you noted the email details for sending the application to AIMSSEC? Marjorie Batchelor mb139@cam.ac.uk	

Once the application is received, applicants will receive confirmation by **sms and email**. Confirmation of receipt is not a guarantee of a place on the course. Acceptance will be confirmed at a later date. Information given in this form will be computerised and used to inform admission decisions.

I confirm that the information that I have given in this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, and I understand that if offered a place, I will be committing myself (i) to attending the AIMSSEC professional development course at Makerere University in Kampala from 3rd to 12th January 2019 and (ii) running workshops to share what I have learned with other teachers in my school.

Signature of applicant:		Date:
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This page was inserted so that the referee form could be kept separate.

REFEREE FORM
MARGARET BABIRYE BURSARY
AIMSSEC Mathematical Thinking Course
Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda

03 – 12 January 2019 followed by 3 months distance learning

To the referee: The applicant: (name);
 is applying for admission to the **AIMSSEC** professional development course. Please complete the
 following and return to **AIMSSEC** by email to Marjorie Batchelor mb139@cam.ac.uk

Referee:	Title:	Surname:												
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	First names:		Telephone number:										
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Position:														
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Name of institution:														
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Address:														
	Post code:													

1. For how long have you known the applicant? Years
2. Comment on the applicant's aptitude as a <u>mathematics teacher</u>.	
3. Comment on the applicant's motivation, maturity, originality and initiative as a <u>mathematics teacher</u>.	
4. Comment on the applicant's ability to conduct staff development sessions for other <u>mathematics teachers</u> at the school.	
5. For how many years has the teacher <u>taught mathematics</u>? Years

6. Would you like to make any further comments?

I understand the aims and conditions of the Margaret Babirye Bursary.

I understand that the applicant if s/he is successful will be given materials for running collaborative learning professional development workshops to share AIMSSEC teaching and learning resources and pedagogical ideas with other teachers in the school and, where possible, with teachers from other schools. I undertake and promise to support the applicant in running these workshops.

I agree that the following recommendation will be kept confidential:

Signature of referee:		Date:	
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