

## APPLY TO VISIT THE MPIM!

This document is for people who might be interested in visiting the Max Planck Institute for Mathematics in Bonn<sup>1</sup>, either as a postdoc or a guest researcher.

**Application procedure.** The procedure is the same for both postdocs and guests. There is a short online form to fill out (<https://www.mpim-bonn.mpg.de/node/3888>), which will also ask for a CV, publication list, and a research plan (merged into a single pdf), as well as names of at least two reference letter writers. Letters are needed also for guest applications. At the moment we do not advertise postdoc positions on mathjobs.

The applications are discussed thrice a year, usually in January, June, and November, with corresponding deadlines in January, May, and October. Decisions are made and shared with applicants soon after the meetings (usually within a month of the application deadline). IMPORTANT NOTE: IN 2023/24 WE ARE TRYING OUT A NEW PROCEDURE WITH A SINGLE WINTER DEADLINE. SO IF YOU'RE READING THIS, THE NEXT APPLICATION DEADLINE WILL BE DECEMBER 1, WITH DECISIONS EXPECTED BY THE END OF JANUARY, AND THEN THE NEXT DEADLINE WILL BE IN MAY OR JUNE 2024.

**Postdocs.** For those coming from the US, it is best to apply in October or January. Note however that if you apply in October you might get an offer from us by early December, long before e.g. decisions for the NSF postdocs are made. Applying in January is more aligned with the US postdoc decision timeline.

It is helpful to mention people at MPIM (especially the long-term researchers mentioned here <https://www.mpim-bonn.mpg.de/taxonomy/term/4>) whom you would be interested to talk to and work with.

The research plan can just be the research statement from your usual postdoc applications. Of course it could also be tailored to the MPIM.

Postdoc positions at MPIM are usually for 2 years (rare) or 1 year (more common). It is possible to apply for an extension after one year. Occasionally we have had postdocs defer 3-year postdocs in the US to visit the MPIM for a year.

**Guests.** It is helpful to apply about a year before your proposed visit. Summer months are especially busy so it can be advantageous to apply for non-summer months.

### (Answers to) frequently asked questions.

- In the November meeting, we do account for the January applications, i.e. we will not fill up all the open positions in the November meeting. Correspondingly there should not be a disadvantage to applying in January. Sometimes, we defer deciding on a November application until January, to compare against January candidates.
- If you receive an offer from MPIM, you will have a couple of weeks to decide to accept or decline. If you would like more time to make a decision, it is sometimes (but not always) possible to get an extension. Contact your postdoc mentor, the postdoc co-ordinator (Christian Blohmann <http://people.mpim-bonn.mpg.de/blohmann/>), or the scientific co-ordinator (Pieter Moree <http://people.mpim-bonn.mpg.de/moree/>).

---

*Last updated:* September 5, 2023.

<sup>1</sup>Not to be confused with our sister institute, the Max Planck Institute for Mathematics in the Sciences in Leipzig! <https://www.mis.mpg.de/>

- It is possible for US citizens and permanent residents to apply for the NSF postdoc with MPIM as the host institution.
- The application form requires at least two reference letters, but it is possible to add more.
- It is possible to teach as a postdoc/long-term guest at the MPIM, but it is not required.
- There are also postdoc positions through the Hausdorff Center for Mathematics. This is a combined programme for all the fields of mathematics (including applied mathematics) represented at Bonn. See <https://www.hcm.uni-bonn.de/opportunities/hausdorff-postdocs/> for more information. If your plan is to primarily interact with mathematicians at the MPIM, then you are much more likely to get a postdoc through MPIM rather than the HCM.
- It is possible that the committee only offers a position for a fraction of the time applied for. E.g. you might apply for a 2 year postdoc and only be accepted for 1 year (although note above that it is possible to apply for extensions). There is no disadvantage to applying for a longer visit. There is also no advantage to applying for a shorter visit, i.e. the time applied for does not play a role in our decision. Indeed, the awarded time is always a proper fraction of the time applied for, i.e. if you apply for 1 year then we would not offer any more time than that.

The MPIM also has a PhD programme. For more information, see <https://www.mpim-bonn.mpg.de/node/78>.