



AIMS-Canada Research Chairs in Climate Change Science

Terms of Reference for Chairs

Purpose

This document describes the terms of reference for AIMS-Canada Research Chairs in Climate Change Science. This Research Chairs Program seeks to make significant contributions towards developing both the human capital and the scientific knowledgebase required to solve the myriad challenges to Africa's development resulting from climate change. Henceforth the word "Chair" shall be used to refer to both the chair position and the incumbent.

This Research Chairs Program was made possible by a grant from the International Development Research Centre, Ottawa, Canada, www.idrc.ca, and financial support from the Government of Canada provided through Global Affairs Canada (GAC), www.international.gc.ca. It is administered by the AIMS Global Secretariat within the framework of the Mathematical Science for Climate Change Resilience Program.

Eligibility

- ❖ A doctorate in a quantitative discipline including, but not limited to, applied mathematics, climatology, physics, chemistry, computer science, statistical ecology, and engineering.
- ❖ Significant evidence of excellent, self-initiated and self-directed research in climate change science.
- ❖ At least two years of postdoctoral experience.
- ❖ Experience supervising Master's and/or PhD students.
- ❖ Ability to take up the Chair by the end of 2018.

Terms and Conditions

Expectations

- ❖ The Chair is expected to develop a world-class research program in climate change science, and build a research group comprising, among others, MSc and PhD students, and postdoctoral fellows.
- ❖ The Chair will be based at the AIMS Rwanda Center but may execute (research) projects anywhere in Africa; collaboration with industry, government institutions, civil society organizations, and communities is strongly encouraged.
- ❖ Individual projects may include any combination of theoretical and applied research, policy and practice (including proof-of-concept studies).
- ❖ The majority of the research projects should depend substantively on the mathematical sciences.



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- ❖ Projects involving human and/or animal subjects shall adhere to the highest applicable ethical standards. The Chair shall request and receive permission from AIMS before embarking on such projects. Such permission may be granted subject to additional conditions, which shall be communicated to the Chair.
- ❖ The Chair is expected to promptly disseminate the outputs of his/her research through international, peer-reviewed journals; conference presentations; and other appropriate mechanisms.
- ❖ AIMS, IDRC, GAC, and the government of Canada should be duly acknowledged in all communications (publications, presentations, etc.) concerning work done by the Chair. Publications should carry the following acknowledgement: "This work was carried out with the aid of a grant from the International Development Research Centre, Ottawa, Canada, www.idrc.ca, and with financial support from the Government of Canada, provided through Global Affairs Canada (GAC), www.international.gc.ca".
- ❖ All books and journal articles resulting from the Chair's work should be made freely available to the public, in post-print form, within 12 months of the initial publication date. Funding will be provided for open-access publication. All other project outputs should be sent to AIMS for submission to an appropriate open access repository.
- ❖ The Chair shall respect existing intellectual property rights. In addition, the Chair shall immediately report to AIMS any patentable output resulting or anticipated from his/her work. S/he shall not license, or otherwise assign the rights to, such outputs without written permission from AIMS.
- ❖ If the Chair is unable to take up the position by the agreed start date, then s/he shall inform AIMS (ms4cr-chairs@nexteinstein.org) as soon as possible.
- ❖ The Chair shall submit quarterly progress reports to AIMS (ms4cr-chairs@nexteinstein.org). A reporting template will be provided for this purpose.
- ❖ In the event of a change in the Chair's circumstances that makes him/her unable to continue to adhere to these Terms of Reference s/he should immediately notify AIMS by email (ms4cr-chairs@nexteinstein.org). Failure to do so will be considered a breach of these Terms of Reference and render the Chair subject to dismissal at the sole discretion of AIMS.

Duration

- ❖ The Chair is tenable for a period of four years commencing on the agreed start date, which shall be specified in the Chair's contract with AIMS.
- ❖ AIMS may decide to terminate the Chair if the Steering Committee (see below) deems the Chair's performance to be significantly below expectations (see *Expectations*).
- ❖ AIMS shall provide administrative support to enable the Chair to apply for external grants. Depending on the value and duration of grants thus received, AIMS may decide to extend the Chair's tenure.
- ❖ The Chair may not seek alternate employment before the last twelve months of his/her tenure.

Financial support

- ❖ The total amount of direct financial support available to each Chair is approximately USD 970,000 over a four-year period.
- ❖ This amount will cover:



- relocation of the Chair and family members to Rwanda;
 - the Chair's salary;
 - fellowships for up to five postdoctoral fellows;
 - bursaries for a maximum of six Master's and four PhD students;
 - attendance at national, regional and international conferences;
 - hosting of at least one conference, workshop or summer school at AIMS Rwanda;
 - hosting of collaborators at AIMS Rwanda; and
 - public dissemination of research results.
- ❖ Members of the Chair's research group may be eligible to apply to AIMS for additional funding in the form of small research grants, mobility grants, and highly prestigious research fellowships for women in climate change science.

Performance Review

- ❖ The Chair's performance will be reviewed annually by a Steering Committee constituted by AIMS. The Chair will be made aware of the criteria employed in the review process.
- ❖ The review will not be done in an adversarial manner; rather, the goal will be to support the continued growth of the Chair's research while acknowledging that the Chair is a strategic asset to both AIMS and the people of Africa.

Application and Evaluation Procedures

Application procedure

- ❖ Applicants are requested to email the following documents to ms4cr-chairs@nexteinstein.org (using the subject line "MS4CR chair application – first and last name of applicant") by the deadline indicated in the call for applications:
 - a completed [personal details form](#),
 - a completed [research proposal form](#),
 - a curriculum vitae
 - a letter of motivation
 - electronic copies of three, representative publications in climate change science, where the candidate is the lead and/or senior author.
- ❖ Applicants are asked to request three referees to email confidential letters of support to ms4cr-chairs@nexteinstein.org (using the subject line "MS4CR chair application support letter – first and last name of candidate") by the application deadline. It is the applicant's responsibility to provide referees with a copy of these Terms of Reference and the [Instructions for Referees](#).
- ❖ Applications shall be considered complete if all the documents listed above, including support letters, are received by AIMS on, or before, the application deadline. Incomplete applications will not be evaluated.



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Evaluation procedure

Applications will initially be screened for relevance and then evaluated by an international selection committee based on the following criteria:

- ❖ Quality of applicant: academic qualifications; quality of publications; experience in climate change-related research; and real-world impact & recognition (e.g. through awards) of prior work.
- ❖ Quality of proposed research: relevance to climate change modelling, practice and policy; strength of connection to the mathematical sciences; experience of applicant in research topic; quality of research design; feasibility; suitability of proposed research environment(s); and quality and realism of budget projections.
- ❖ Potential impact of proposed research on scientific knowledge, practice and policy.

Review

This document shall be reviewed, as needed, by an Oversight Committee and the AIMS Secretariat.