

For Your Information

Departments Coordinate Job Offer Deadlines

For the past nineteen years, the American Mathematical Society has led the effort to gain broad endorsement for the following proposal:

That mathematics departments and institutes agree not to require a response prior to a certain date (usually around February 1 of a given year) to an offer of a postdoctoral position that begins in the fall of that year.

This proposal is linked to an agreement made by the National Science Foundation (NSF) that the recipients of the NSF Mathematical Sciences Postdoctoral Fellowships would be notified of their awards, at the latest, by the end of January.

This agreement ensures that our young colleagues entering the postdoctoral job market have as much information as possible about their options before making a decision. It also allows departmental hiring committees adequate time to review application files and make informed decisions. From our perspective, this agreement has worked well and has made the process more orderly. There have been very few negative comments. Last year, more than 180 mathematical sciences departments and institutes endorsed the agreement.

Therefore we propose that mathematics departments again collectively enter into the same agreement for the upcoming cycle of recruiting, with the deadline set for Monday, January 28, 2019. The NSF's Division of Mathematical Sciences has already agreed that it will complete its review of applications by January 18, 2019, at the latest, and that all applicants will be notified electronically at that time.

The American Mathematical Society facilitated the process by sending an email message to all doctoral-granting mathematics and applied mathematics departments and mathematics institutes. The list of departments and institutes endorsing this agreement was widely announced on the AMS website beginning November 1, 2018, and is updated weekly until mid-January.

We ask that you view this year's formal agreement at www.ams.org/employment/postdoc-offers.html along with this year's list of adhering departments.

Important: To streamline this year's process for all involved, we ask that you notify T. Christine Stevens at postdoc-deadline@ams.org if and only if:

(1) your department is not listed and you would like to be listed as part of the agreement;
or

(2) your department is listed and you would like to withdraw from the agreement and be removed from the list.

Please feel free to email us with questions and concerns. Thank you for consideration of the proposal.

—Catherine A. Roberts
AMS Executive Director

T. Christine Stevens
AMS Associate Executive Director