

IMA Resources for Career Development and Mentoring

Developing a clear sense of direction is an important consideration for professionals working in mathematical roles, particularly when planning career progression or navigating transitions between sectors. As mathematical expertise becomes increasingly central to fields such as technology, data science, finance and public policy, mathematicians often work across diverse environments including academia, industry and government. Although the analytical and problem-solving skills developed through mathematics are widely transferable, identifying suitable opportunities and presenting expertise effectively often benefits from structured reflection and guidance.

The members-only IMA Career Development Platform, accessed through myIMA (my.ima.org.uk), has been designed to support members in this process. The platform brings together tailored resources, expert guidance and practical tools that support career planning and strengthen professional confidence. Resources such as CV guidance, interview preparation materials and structured development content help members reflect on their skills, explore potential career pathways and prepare for career advancement. The platform therefore provides a practical framework that helps members translate mathematical knowledge and experience into clearly defined professional goals.

Platform engagement analytics indicate steady interest in these learning resources. For example, the ELearning Hub receives regular visits from members exploring development opportunities, while e-learning materials are frequently accessed as part of ongoing capability development. The Newsroom also maintains consistent readership, reflecting strong interest in developments across the applications of mathematics and its wider professional landscape. These features create a structured environment for exploring ideas, building capability and identifying emerging career opportunities.

Alongside this structured support, the IMA Exponential Mentoring Scheme (see ima.onpld.com) offers a complementary community-focused approach to career progression. The scheme enables voluntary mentoring relationships between members who wish to share experience and those seeking guidance. Through these conversations, mentees gain insight into career transitions, leadership development and professional challenges, while mentors strengthen the profession by sharing expertise and supporting colleagues. Used alongside the Career Development Platform, mentoring provides a reflective space where members can discuss career decisions and gain perspective from experienced professionals.

Members seeking to enhance their career progression can explore both initiatives through myIMA as part of a broader approach to career reflection, planning and lifelong learning.

Professional growth within the mathematical sciences is also strengthened through collaboration across organisations and sectors. The STEM Futures programme provides a framework connecting organisations from industry, academia and the public sector. Through technical hubs and cross-sector networks, partners share expertise, discuss common challenges and develop practical responses to emerging technological and societal needs.

As the role of mathematics continues to expand across sectors ranging from artificial intelligence to climate modelling, initiatives that strengthen collaboration and capability development will remain increasingly important.

Alongside collaborative initiatives, such as STEM Futures, the IMA maintains representative networks that strengthen connections across the mathematical community. These networks play an important role in linking academic institutions, professional workplaces and the wider Institute.

Academic Representatives

Academic Representatives act as the main IMA contacts within universities offering mathematical sciences degrees. These representatives are typically academic staff who are Members (MIMA) or Fellows (FIMA) of the Institute and serve as local contacts for colleagues and students interested in the Institute's work.

Through this network, universities engage more closely with the Institute's activities and initiatives. Academic Representatives strengthen the mathematical sciences community by promoting awareness of membership, sharing information about Institute initiatives and providing feedback from departments on emerging priorities within teaching and research environments.

They also support students as they begin their professional journey, helping to highlight career opportunities available to graduates with mathematical sciences degrees.

Industry Representatives

Complementing the Academic Representatives network, Industry Representatives act as the main IMA contacts within organisations employing mathematicians and quantitative professionals across business, industry and government.

They strengthen communication between the Institute and professional workplaces, promote awareness of membership and highlight opportunities for career advancement. Industry Representatives also encourage engagement with Institute initiatives, including mentoring programmes, events and charterhip pathways.

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Opportunities for members

Together, the Academic and Industry Representative networks create valuable lateral connections across our community. By linking universities, professional workplaces and the wider Institute, these networks enable knowledge exchange, collaboration and professional visibility.

For members, this structure ensures that professional support extends beyond individual career development to include mentoring, collaboration and representation across the wider mathematical community. It also creates opportunities to engage with colleagues working in different sectors, gain insight into emerging applications of mathematics and contribute to the continued development of the profession.

Collectively, the mentoring scheme, career development platform, collaborative programmes and representative networks form a coherent framework that supports mathematicians throughout their careers while strengthening the role of mathematics across society.

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