

CHOOSE
MATHS

MENTORING

AN **AMSI** SCHOOLS PROJECT

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WHAT IS
CHOOSEMATHS?

CHOOSE**MATHS** is a five-year partnership between the Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute (AMSI) and the BHP Billiton Foundation. Working with students, parents and teachers, the project aims to turn around community attitudes and participation in mathematics and statistics as a career choice, especially for girls and young women.

The five-year national initiative will contribute to the health of the mathematics pipeline in Australia from school through university and out to industry and the workplace by:

- Providing professional development and school support in 120 schools across Australia;
- Hosting the annual CHOOSE**MATHS** Awards for excellence;
- Developing a national mathematical career awareness campaign to highlight the interesting careers that exist for mathematically capable graduates; and
- Developing a “Women in Maths” Network of inspiring role models and mathematics ambassadors.

CHOOSE**MATHS** MENTORING is part of the Women in Maths Network.

WHAT MADE YOU
CHOOSE MATHS?

WHO TRIGGERED YOUR LIGHT-BULB MOMENT?

Was it a favourite teacher who excited you about a maths problem? Maybe somebody recognised your talent when it was hidden from even you? Or you met somebody whose journey opened your eyes to a career you had never considered before?

Currently only 18 per cent of girls are choosing Intermediate Mathematics in Year 12, and a mere 6 per cent Advanced/Specialist Mathematics. Continuing into university, this trend sees women account for just one quarter of Australian mathematics undergraduates.

CHOOSE**MATHS** is looking for enthusiastic individuals to join our mentoring program and turn the tide on perceptions of mathematics among high school girls. Whether you are a university student, a researcher, or somebody using mathematics in the workplace, if you have a background in maths and enjoy telling others about its beauty and applicability, then you may have what it takes to change somebody's life.

A MENTOR
CAN MAKE
A HUGE
DIFFERENCE

WHY BECOME A
CHOOSE**MATHS**
MENTOR?

GIVE YOUNG WOMEN CONFIDENCE Through mentorship our program aims to foster the participation of Year 11 and 12 girls in higher levels of mathematics; encourage girls to pursue maths, science and engineering at university; and increase the number of young women moving into (and staying in) mathematical and scientific careers. As a mentor you can give young women the confidence they need to carry on with mathematics, and can show how and why mathematics is important to the world we live in.

BECOME PART OF A COMMUNITY The mentoring program will create communities, with each mentor assigned to a group containing other university students and career professionals. This means you gain a support network of mathematical professionals and access to peer-to-peer mentoring at the same time as you change the lives of younger students. This also provides high school students in the group with exposure to a broad range of experiences and opinions, taking the pressure off any individual to have all the answers.

BE PART OF A COMMUNITY

RECOGNISE YOUR IMPACT Participants of mentoring programs often talk about the reward of seeing their profession or studies through the eyes of their mentees, with this new perspective reaffirming the importance of the work they are doing. On those frustrating days in the office, the lab or the library, when you are wondering why you do what you are doing, the opportunity to engage with younger people is a great reminder of those forgotten reasons we made the choices we did and the impact we are making in society.

INCREASE YOUR SKILL SET If you have ever thought about going into teaching – either in a formal or informal way – then mentoring is a great place to start. It will give you a chance to see what working with young people is like and to gain skills to put on your CV.

WHAT DOES
CHOOSEMATHS
MENTORING
INVOLVE?

LOG IN As a mentor you will be matched to a 'mentoring circle' including 6-10 school students from Years 9 and 10, two or three university students, and two or three careers professionals. You will have access to our online forum, a space where anyone within the circle can ask and answer questions and contribute to discussions.

CONTRIBUTE As a mentor you will be required to take part in live online chat sessions with your mentees roughly once per month for two terms, and contribute to the online forum regularly over this period.

ATTEND At least once annually we will invite you to attend an event in person. This will be an opportunity to meet your mentees and the other members of the circle face-to-face. It is also a chance to meet up with other mentoring circles to share experiences and ideas, to build professional networks and to meet the **CHOOSEMATHS** team. (Travel expenses to be subsidised by AMSI.)

COMMIT Signing up to be a mentor carries a commitment to remain on the program for at least six months, and we hope you would stay on for a year or more in order to deepen the relationship within the circle. School students may stay in the program until they are in Year 12.

APPLY As part of your application you will be asked to provide two references from people who know you well, and we will conduct a short phone interview with you, in order to verify your suitability as a mentor.

COMPLIANCE Once your initial application has been accepted you will be required to undergo a Working with Children check in your state or territory. Without this certificate you will not be able to participate in the mentoring program. More details on the requirements for each state and territory are listed on the accompanying document.

EVALUATE To help us make the mentoring program a success, we will ask you to fill out periodic evaluation forms, telling us about your experiences and your suggestions for changes.

WHO WILL I

MENTOR?

IN THE FIRST YEAR OF THE PROGRAM

mentors will work with students chosen from secondary schools within their state or territory. You will mentor female school students who are either in Years 9 and 10 with an aptitude for mathematics and STEM, identified by their teachers as likely to benefit from having additional support to encourage them in their confidence and career aspirations.

Within each mentoring circle, the mentees will all belong to one or two schools, while the mentors may be more widely spread geographically. When pairing you with schools, location will be taken into account, but we will also be trying to ensure a range of interests, backgrounds, ages and career paths within each circle.

YEAR 9 ←

YEAR 10 ←

WHAT WE LOOK FOR IN A

CHOOSE**MATHS**

MENTOR

ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT MATHS

**IN A MATHS-RELATED CAREER
OR DEGREE PROGRAM**

A GOOD COMMUNICATOR

**WANTING TO MAKE A
DIFFERENCE**

READY WITH ADVICE

**ABLE TO DISCUSS THE
MATHEMATICS THEY USE**

**HAPPY TO DISCUSS THEIR
STUDY & CAREER**

OPEN-MINDED

EMPATHETIC

COMPASSIONATE

**COMMITTED TO STAYING
FOR AT LEAST 6 MONTHS**

**WORK SENSITIVELY &
PROFESSIONALLY WITH
YOUNG PEOPLE**

**WILLING TO TRAVEL ONCE
OR TWICE PER YEAR**

APPLY TO BE A
CHOOSEMATHS

MENTOR

DOES THIS SOUND LIKE YOU?

If so, we encourage you to apply today! Simply fill out the form at **[CHOOSEMATHS.ORG.AU/MENTORINGAPPLYNOW](https://www.choosemaths.org.au/mentoringapplynow)** and give us as much information as you can.

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CHOOSE**MATHS** is a joint initiative of the Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute (AMSI) & the BHP Billiton Foundation