Mathematics & Statistics postdoc – Call for proposals

(sent out by Asia Ivić Weiss, to council, on Nov 29, 2012)

A postdoc committee will be struck to allocate departmental postdoc resources. The latter consist of funding we receive from the Fields Institute, plus teaching and the departmental visitor fund. In the new YUFA collective agreement there is a provision for postdoctoral visitors as members of the YUFA. It is not well understood what impact this will have on our postdoctoral fellows or on the offers that we will be able to make. The Ad Hoc Subcommittee of the Executive Committee on Postdocs is trying to understand the implications of the new collective agreement and its impact on our postdoctoral positions. We believe that starting with this year we may be able to make two-year offers.

Timelines are set by the facts that major US universities coordinate their postdoc offer timing around the dates NSF announces its fellowships. See http://www.ams.org/profession/employment-services/deadline-coordination/deadline-coordination NSF will make the announcement by January 25, 2013 and coordinating departments will not require responses before February 4, 2013. This means that we should be prepared to make at least some decisions one week before(say, by January 24, 2013) in order that candidates who wish to come to York are not forced to decide about offers from other schools, before hearing from us. I would therefore request that any proposals for the first round of postdocs decisions reach me by Thursday January 17, 2013. Note that the offers that are contingent on teaching will only be provisional, until teaching authorization is received from the Dean.

Application protocol:

(1) Proposals must be made by the York Faculty member who will be the principal supervisor of the postdoc.
(2) Proposals must be sent electronically (i.e. by e-mail) to weiss@mathstat.yorku.ca
(3) Proposals must include the postdoc’s resume and a letter from the postdoctoral supervisor spelling out the budget and anticipated sources of support.
(4) Letters of recommendation are advisable, since they add strength to the case for departmental funding. But they are not an absolute requirement.
(5) By requesting teaching for their postdocs, postdoctoral supervisors are vouching for the ability of their postdoc to deliver a course at an acceptable level, and are agreeing to mentor their postdoc regarding teaching. This means that if your postdoc’s teaching ability turns out to be problematic, you will be expected to intervene and fix things.
(6) Once funding is approved, it is the responsibility of the postdoctoral supervisor (in consultation with Asia Ivić Weiss and Kate Singh) to arrange for a letter of invitation to be issued by the Chair or the Dean.

The postdoc committee will consist of three researchers who are at arms length from all departmental postdoctoral funding proposals. I am looking for volunteers from each section. Preferably more volunteers than may be necessary, since committee members may need to resign if good postdoctoral candidates materialize in their area. I am also hoping to augment the committee with a member of the postdoc ad hoc committee this year in light of the changes in the YUFA collective agreement.

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