

Mathematics Training and Talent Search Programme

Mathematics Training and Talent Search Programme (MTTS) is one of the programmes of the National Board for Higher Mathematics (NBHM) for the promotion of mathematics in the country. The programme is geared to improve the level of prospective scholars who desire to do research in Mathematics.

During a "Discussion Meeting on Harmonic Analysis" held at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore in 1992, a session was devoted to discuss the academic preparation of the students who come for Ph.D. programmes in Mathematics in various universities and Institutions in the country. To improve the level of the Ph.D. aspirants it was felt that a training programme should be started at the B.Sc. final year level to expose young minds to the excitement of doing mathematics and enabling them to have a meaningful career in mathematics (research and/or teaching). The National Board for Higher Mathematics (NBHM) was approached with the proposal, which was promptly agreed to. And the programme, christened as Mathematics Training and Talent Search Programme (MTTS), took off since 1993.

The programme is conducted by Prof. S. Kumaresan, Department of Mathematics, University of Mumbai. Every year, about 100-150 students are selected for the training.

The most exciting part of mathematics is the process of invention

and discovery. The aim of this course is to introduce the process to the students with an end objective to motivate the interested students in mathematics to set in right direction towards invention and discovery. Talent search is the vital part of the process. Seminars by students and problem solving sessions form an integral part of training.

The eligibility for the MTTS has been divided into three levels.

Level O: Second year undergraduate (B.Sc./B.Stat./B.Tech., etc.) students with Mathematics as one of their subjects (exceptionally good first year B.Sc. students can also apply.)

Level I: Final year undergraduate (B.Sc./B.Stat./B.Tech., etc.) students with Mathematics as one of their subjects.

Level II: First year postgraduate (M.Sc./M.Stat./M.Tech., etc.) students with Mathematics as one of their subjects.

The Programme

The programme is of 4 weeks duration and starts in the month of May each year. The daily programme, which is more to initiate discussion rather than the usual class room presentations, consists of highly interactive morning and evening sessions of split into 90 minutes and 75 minutes duration respectively.

Under the programme the travel

expenses (sleeper/2nd class railway fare by the shortest route) are reimbursed to the selected scholars. They are also provided free lodging and boarding during the period of the programme.

No scholarship is provided under this programme. However, there is a follow-up programme for the students selected on the basis their performance in the course. These students are assigned an institute where they can pursue a subject of their choice under an expert's guidance, for a period of two to four weeks. They are also given a stipend to cover their travel and living expenses during this period.

All the participants who attend the programme for the entire period receive a certificate of participation.

The course is radically different from the formal academic courses in colleges. It is highly interactive, and provides a platform for students with varied back-ground to come together and interact with peers and experts in the field.

For further information please write to :

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