

FORM FOR REFEREES
Certificate of Professional Development Course
For Mathematics Teachers and Educators of Grades 4 to 12
10 Day Residential Course Followed By 3 Months Distance Learning

To the referee:

The applicant is applying for a place on the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences Schools Enrichment Centre Certificate of Further Professional Studies Course entitled

**MATHEMATICAL THINKING, PROBLEM SOLVING AND TECHNOLOGY
IN TEACHING AND LEARNING MATHEMATICS.**

This is a residential course held in the school holidays. The course participants work in one of three groups according to the ages of the learners that they teach. All the educators who attend will be expected to be in residence for the full duration of the course and receive bursaries to cover accommodation, food, tuition fees, a pack of teaching and learning resources and a contribution to travel expenses. A certificate of further professional studies is awarded to those who satisfactorily complete the course, then implement what they have learnt in their own classrooms for 3 months and submit a 2000 word report of an appropriate standard.

This ten day intensive residential course provides 60 hours of taught sessions and workshops followed by a three month distance learning programme. The course is designed to extend the subject knowledge of educators and to give the educators confidence as lifelong learners, to give them the necessary resources and the pedagogical insights so that they can introduce enquiry based learning, as required by the new Outcomes Based Education curriculum and to empower them to use computers and communication technology effectively in their teaching

The course is taught at a high level by a team of international and African experts in mathematics education from Cambridge University and other universities around the world, who are working as unpaid volunteers. It is open to teachers of grades 4 to 12. The course has been repeated 12 times since 2004 and there is a long waiting list for places. Educators who have taken the course have reported record improvements in the matriculation grades achieved by their learners.

Please note that lack of mathematical background will not exclude applicants from the course, on the contrary the course is designed to assist teachers in learning and understanding the mathematics they have to teach.

Admission to the course will depend on support from the applicant's School Principal and Head of Mathematics. The applicants will be expected in the three months following the residential course to put into practice in their own teaching what they have learnt on the course and to write a short report on the classroom work they have done as a result of attending the course. More information about the programme may be obtained at the AIMSSEC website at <http://aimssec.aims.ac.za>

Educators who do well in this preliminary course will be offered places on the two year part time University of Stellenbosch/AIMSSEC ACE course for Training Subject Leaders in Mathematics, an NQF level 6 qualification. The ACE course involves both residential and distance learning components, using the Internet, Interactive TV and Cellphone technologies. A school cluster network has been set up to empower teachers to support each other and to learn together. Subject leaders are trained to run workshops for other teachers to cascade and multiply the benefits to more teachers and learners. For suitably qualified candidates who engage in Action Research and write a further dissertation the course could contribute to a masters level qualification.

Your frank and confidential comments are essential to our evaluation of the candidate's abilities and the likelihood that they, the school and the learners they teach will benefit from this course. Please complete the following form and give it to the applicant in a sealed envelope with your signature over the seal so that the applicant can send it in with the application form or post it directly to:

Dr Barrie Barnard
AIMSSEC 6 Melrose Rd. Muizenberg 7945 Western Cape

**MATHEMATICAL THINKING, PROBLEM SOLVING AND TECHNOLOGY
IN TEACHING AND LEARNING MATHEMATICS.**

Courses are held in the January and July school holidays.

Name of referee Position

Institution

Address

.....

City Postcode Province

Telephone Fax

E-Mail

Name of applicant.....

Permanent or temporary post

Please answer the following:

1. For how long have you known the applicant and in what context?

2. Please give details of what you know of the applicant’s work as a teacher of mathematics.

3. What are the first words that come to mind to describe this applicant?

**African Institute for Mathematical Sciences
Schools Enrichment Centre**

4. Please write whatever you regard important about this applicant, including a description of teaching qualities and academic and personal characteristics. We are particularly interested in the candidate's intellectual promise, motivation, teaching and mathematical aptitude, maturity, originality, independence, initiative, leadership potential, and capacity for growth.

5. What is your assessment of the mathematical background of the applicant?

6. Please comment briefly on

Perseverance and hard work

Mathematical aptitude

Ability to explain things to others

Creative thought and originality

Independence and initiative

Personal qualities and character

Overall recommendation

I agree that the following recommendation will be kept confidential.

Signature of referee..... Date

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.