

AIMS Student Recruitment FAQs

1. Can a candidate apply to two centres simultaneously?

For the [Structured and Cooperative Master's](#), the answer is NO. For example, a candidate should not apply for the Structured master's at AIMS Ghana and use a different email to apply for the structured/Cooperative Master's at AIMS Senegal. **Please don't register with two different emails to apply for both Master's programs.**

However, a candidate can [apply](#) for the [Structured or Cooperative Master's](#) at any AIMS Centre and apply at the same time for the [Master's in AI for Science](#) at AIMS South Africa, the Master's in Mathematical Epidemiology at AIMS Rwanda/Cameroon and AMMI at AIMS Senegal.

2a. Is it possible to upload documents in French?

Yes, candidates could upload their documents in French. Documents in French and English are accepted.

2b. Is it possible to upload documents in another language such as Arabic?

No, documents should be translated either in french or english

3. Is it acceptable to apply with a 3-year BSc degree?

If you have a 3-year Bsc degree, you can apply only for the Cooperative master's at AIMS Senegal (contact info@aims-senegal.org for more details). AIMS Rwanda might also accept a 3-year Bsc degree (provided the candidate graduated in a system where there is no Master 1), contact info@aims.ac.rw for more details. For the remaining centres, you should have at least a 4-year BSC or a Master 1 (in the French system).

4. Can a candidate apply for both the Master's in AI for Science and another Master's program (such as Cooperative or Structured) at the same time?

Yes. Since the [AI in Science program](#) is only in AIMS South Africa, it is possible to apply for it and apply for another program at the same time.

5. What is the main difference between the Cooperative and Structured Master's programs?

The Structured Master's is 10 months and the Cooperative Master's 18 months. The cooperative program comes with a 4 to 6-months internship period after the essay phase. Co-op students graduate later than those from the structured program.

6. Is there an age limit for applicants?

The age limit is 27 years.

Exceptions may be granted in well-justified circumstances, including but not limited to:

- Maternity or parental leave
- Refugee or asylum status
- Serious illness or long-term medical treatment
- Caregiving responsibilities for a dependent family member
- Interrupted education due to force majeure (e.g. conflict, natural disasters)
- Other exceptional personal or professional circumstances

7. What programs are offered at each AIMS centre?

AIMS Centre	Programme Type	Specialisations / Tracks
Cameroon	Structured Master's in Mathematical Sciences	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Climate Science 2. Data Science 3. Quantum Science 4. Fundamental Science
	Co-operative Master's	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Data Science 2. Mathematical Epidemiology



AIMS Centre	Programme Type	Specialisations / Tracks
Ghana	Master's in Mathematical Sciences	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Structured Master's 2. Co-operative Master's 3. Master for Teachers (3-year BSc accepted)
Rwanda	Structured Master's	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Data Science 2. Mathematical Sciences
	Co-operative Master's	Mathematical Epidemiology
Senegal	Structured Master's in Mathematical Sciences	Fundamental Science and Applications
	Co-operative Master's	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Big Data 2. Computer Security
	Specialized Master	African Master's in Machine Intelligence (AMMI)
South Africa	Structured Master's in Mathematical Sciences	—
	Specialised Master's	AI for Science Master's

8. What are the criteria for selection?

The selection is based on academic excellence, diversity and equity.

9. Will I be notified of the outcome of my application, regardless of the result? When can I expect a response?

Candidates who are not selected will be notified latest in August. However, a candidate might not be selected in the first centre of his/her choice but could still be selected by another AIMS Centre.

10. No transcripts, how do we apply?

Seek partial or provisional transcripts from your university for the application but ensure that you have the official documents by the admission time, in case you are selected.

11. Does AIMS assist students in finding internship positions?

Yes, for the co-op program for all the co-op students but also through the AIMS industry initiative program (if possible) and the AIMS transition to job or further studies program.

12. Are the interviews conducted in French or English?

Candidates may choose either language, depending on which allows them to express themselves most effectively. The choice of language will not affect the outcome of the interview.

13. Are PhD students encouraged to apply?

Yes, but the training leads to an AIMS Master's degree; AIMS does not generally offer a PhD program, except for specific calls from [AIMS Research and Innovation centre in Rwanda](#).

14. Given that I have several degrees and professional certifications, should I upload only the documents related to my academic training, or should I upload all of my documents?

Each candidate is encouraged to upload all documents (certificates and transcripts) which could be used to evaluate his/her application.

15. Can I edit my application after submission before the deadline?

Yes, you can edit your application before the deadline.

17. I applied for mathematical science Ghana and I saw another call for mathematical epidemiology for Cameroon and Rwanda. Can I also apply for this?

Yes, a candidate can [apply](#) for the [Structured or Cooperative Master's](#) at any AIMS Centre and apply at the same time for the [Master's in AI for Science](#) at AIMS South Africa, the Master's in Mathematical Epidemiology at AIMS Rwanda/Cameroon and AMMI at AIMS Senegal.

18. What is the minimal GPA required to be selected at AIMS?

The selection is based on academic excellence, diversity and equity. However, there is no minimal GPA required to be selected.

19. Will I be able to continue with a PhD at AIMS after completing my AIMS Master's Degree?

No, AIMS is offering a 10 months scholarship for the structured master's and 18 months scholarship for the cooperative education master's. However, AIMS graduates are exposed to further opportunities like [YAM](#), [IVADO](#), etc.... [AIMS Research and Innovation centre in Rwanda](#) has a PhD program to which interested candidates might apply.

20. Can I register for a PhD program with the AIMS master's degree?

The AIMS master's degree is widely recognized. However, entry requirements for PhD might vary for different universities.

20. How many candidates are selected per centre?

The total number of students retained at each centre usually vary from 60 to about 110 (for the case of AIMS Cameroon).

22. What does AIMS look for in a candidate beyond strong academic grades and a solid background in mathematics?

In addition to academic background, women are strongly encouraged to apply as well as internally displaced persons, refugees, persons living with disabilities.

23. Do you consider factors such as volunteer work, certifications, awards, and publications as valuable elements to enhance a candidate's chances?

Yes.

25. On the application portal, I saw that one can only fill one center. Could an applicant be considered for other centers if he/she is not eligible for the center applied? Yes.

26. Currently which center is applying the fee paying program ?

AIMS Senegal is applying fees for the cooperative education program. For more details send message/email on WhatsApp +221 78 793 00 41/ mdatascience@aims-senegal.org

27. Does disclosing that I belong to an underrepresented group (women, refugees and displaced persons, or persons with disabilities) affect my chances of admission?

No. Disclosing that you belong to an underrepresented group does **not** negatively affect your chances of admission. All applications are assessed primarily on academic merit and potential. Any information shared is used only to understand applicants' contexts and to provide appropriate support where needed.

28. I am expecting to have a child in a few months. Am I still eligible to apply?



AIMS

African Institute for
Mathematical Sciences

IN AFRICA'S YOUTH, THE FUTURE OF SCIENCE

Yes. Pregnancy or caregiving responsibilities do not make you ineligible to apply. AIMS is committed to supporting scholars with diverse life circumstances and encourages applicants to share any needs that may require reasonable adjustments or support.

28. What measures are in place to prevent gender-based discrimination or harassment?

AIMS has safeguarding, anti-harassment, and gender inclusion policies in place. These include clear codes of conduct, confidential reporting mechanisms, designated focal persons, and procedures for prevention, response, and accountability to ensure a safe and respectful learning environment.

30. I am a refugee. Do I need a passport or national ID to apply?

AIMS understands that refugees and displaced persons may not have access to standard documentation. Alternative forms of identification may be accepted on a case-by-case basis, and applicants are encouraged to communicate their situation during the application process.

31. Apart from the tuition, what else does the scholarship offer?

In addition to tuition, AIMS scholarships may cover accommodation, meals, health insurance, learning materials, and a living stipend, depending on the program and funding partner. Details are provided in the specific call for applications.

32. Is psychosocial or well-being support available?

Yes. AIMS provides access to psychosocial and well-being support, including counseling services, peer support, and referrals where necessary. These services are available to support scholars' mental, emotional, and social well-being.

33. What types of accommodations does AIMS provide to persons with disabilities?

AIMS provides reasonable accommodations based on individual needs. These may include accessible learning spaces, assistive technologies, alternative formats for learning materials, extended exam time, flexible learning arrangements, and other appropriate adjustments.

34. Are AIMS campuses physically accessible?

AIMS is continuously working to improve physical and digital accessibility across its campuses. While accessibility may vary by center, individual accommodation needs are addressed to the extent possible, and AIMS works proactively with scholars to identify solutions.

35. Can I ask questions or request support during the application process?

Yes. Applicants are encouraged to reach out for clarification or support during the application process, especially if they face barriers related to disability, displacement, caregiving responsibilities, or limited access to resources.

36. How does AIMS ensure fairness in selection?

AIMS uses transparent, merit-based selection processes while applying an equity lens to recognize diverse backgrounds and structural barriers. Selection committees are guided by clear criteria and inclusive principles to ensure fairness.

37. Will I find a supportive and inclusive community at AIMS?

Yes. AIMS fosters a diverse and inclusive academic community that values respect, collaboration, and belonging. Scholars benefit from mentorship, peer networks, and institutional support systems that promote inclusion.

38. Who can I contact if I experience discrimination or exclusion?

AIMS has designated safeguarding and inclusion focal persons at each center, as well as confidential reporting mechanisms. Scholars can report concerns safely and expect timely, respectful, and appropriate responses.

39. Is an English proficiency test required to join the program?

A: No, an English proficiency test is not required. However, a good level of English mastery is helpful for students to fully benefit from the program. For candidates who start with a lower level of English, several centers offer intensive English training at the beginning of the year to help them quickly improve their skills.