



# AMSI News

## Geoff Prince\*

On 8 June the Parliamentary Secretary for Innovation and Industry, Richard Marles, announced AMSI's new industry intern program, which will place young researchers with mathematical and statistical skills in Australian small and medium enterprises.

'This agreement is a win-win for businesses and interns alike', Mr Marles, himself a maths graduate, said.

'Businesses will be able to tap into new expertise to help drive their innovation, while the interns will have an invaluable opportunity to apply their skills in practical situations.'

'Enterprise Connect will refer projects to AMSI to be matched with an intern who will work with a business for four to five months', Mr Marles said.

'It is about using the vast scientific knowledge in our tertiary education sector to foster innovation, increase productivity and support jobs in Australian businesses.'

The new internship program will place up to 90 postgraduates over three years into Australian businesses to bring new analytical techniques to problems in areas from supply chain logistics to gene sequencing. The interns, guided by their academic mentors, will spend four to five months in industry placements working on innovative solutions to commercial and industrial problems.

The scheme, modelled on a successful Canadian program that aims to place 1500 postgraduate interns this year, will be jointly run by AMSI and the Commonwealth Government's Enterprise Connect. It will extend Enterprise Connect's Researchers in Business program. This program is formally recognised by the ARC in its consideration of Linkage Grant applications.

The scheme has a total value of more than \$3 million and will provide mentors with a total of \$450 000 in research incentive funds. Interns will earn up to \$12 500, usually paid as a scholarship top-up or extension.

The internships are open to postgraduate students in the mathematical sciences and cognate disciplines such as engineering, physics, computer science and some biological and medical sciences.

It is my firm belief that this scheme, and others that are in the planning stage, will provide a significant incentive for postgraduate study in mathematics and increase

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retention of undergraduate domestic students. I also hope that it will improve the interest of mathematicians in the ARC Linkage Grant scheme, where we have an indifferent track record. I urge academics and students alike to take advantage of this new career-making opportunity.

Richard Marles' media release can be found at <http://minister.innovation.gov.au/Marles/Pages/MathematiciansToSparkSmallBusinessInnovation.aspx>.

Enterprise Connect's Researchers in Business scheme can be found at [www.enterpriseconnect.gov.au/services/Pages/ResearchersinBusinessGrant.aspx](http://www.enterpriseconnect.gov.au/services/Pages/ResearchersinBusinessGrant.aspx).

AMSI's internship pages can be found at [www.amsi.org.au/index.php/industry/internship](http://www.amsi.org.au/index.php/industry/internship).

Contact AMSI's Industry Marketing Manager, Tom Montague ([tom@amsi.org.au](mailto:tom@amsi.org.au)) for details.



I was a Monash undergraduate and took out a La Trobe PhD in 1981 in geometric mechanics and Lie groups. This was followed by a postdoc at the Institute for Advanced Study in Dublin. I've enjoyed teaching at RMIT, UNE and La Trobe. My research interests lie mainly in differential equations, differential geometry and the calculus of variations. I'm a proud Fellow of the Society, currently a Council and Steering Committee Member. I became AMSI director in September 2009.