

Gender & Diversity 2024-2025 Project Report

By Anitha Thillaisundaram

Abstract: As part of a gender and diversity project at the Centre for Mathematical Sciences at Lund University, a Women in Mathematical Sciences Seminar Series was organised, and the participation of Lund University mathematics students at diversity-in-mathematics conferences was enabled.

At the Centre for Mathematical Sciences, an active Women in Mathematical Sciences Seminar was organised. This seminar series featured female mathematicians, from different stages of their career, coming to Lund to give a student-aimed talk. We hosted mathematicians from Cambridge, Warwick, Bielefeld, Wuerzburg, Trondheim, and Geneva. At the beginning of each talk, the speaker briefly spoke about themselves and their career paths, which made things more personal and friendlier. We had a very good turn out, and there were many questions asked by the students, some of which voiced their uncertainties and insecurities. After every talk, we all got together over pizza in the common room, which helped to create a sense of community. The informal get-together was also good for students to interact with the speaker, and ask, e.g., for advice concerning Master degrees or PhD degrees. Certainly, these get-togethers also provided an opportunity for the students to network amongst themselves. It was also good for our students to learn about the different research topics.

Next, three Master students from underrepresented groups were financially supported to attend conferences (in Spain and Germany, respectively), which were fully aimed or partially aimed at minority groups within mathematics. All three of these students found these conferences a very good experience, and they benefited from attending the talks and from meeting other people from the minority community. They also received good advice aimed at early-career mathematicians. Some specific feedback included the sense of community being very strong, and that they appreciated the emphasis on what one can do to support one another. One student even rose to the challenge to give a lightning talk at the respective conference. All three students have gone on to do a PhD.

To conclude, our mathematics students have really benefited from these two different types of activities. For several of these students, the impact will be long-lasting and will likely benefit them significantly, sometimes in unexpected ways, in the future.

These activities were largely funded by the ELLIIT gender and diversity programme.



The above photo shows one of the Women in Mathematical Sciences Seminar.

These activities were largely funded by the ELLIIT gender and diversity programme.