

\$2m lift for maths programs

JULIE HARE | THE AUSTRALIAN | APRIL 20, 2016 12:00AM



Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute chief executive Geoff Prince.

Five intensive programs designed to nurture high-level niche mathematical skills have been safeguarded after a \$2 million federal funding extension.

Geoff Prince from the Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute said the renewal of the funding by Education Minister Simon Birmingham, meant that two residential schools for honours to postdocs, a vocational research scholarship program for undergraduates and a week long symposium in bioinformatics all had guaranteed funding for another four year period.

AMSI will also launch a new program in research optimisation.

“The next phase of the evolution is to also clone the BioInfoSummer event into one for research optimisation (AMSI Optimise), which has to do with logistics — whether it’s transport, manufacturing or mining,” Professor Prince said.

“We really want to be able to graduate more students who have both qualifications and industry experience in research optimisation.”

AMSI’s PhD intern program will be integrated into the bioinformatics and optimisation events, with AMSI in the process of developing new business development roles to help find placements for PhDs.

Professor Prince said the internships would ordinarily take place in the months between the thesis being lodged and it being returned.

But he said differences in university policies as to student status during those limbo months could mean some students would not be defined as a fulltime student and therefore not able to undertake an internship.

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