

Application Guide- Scientific Workshops at the NITMB

We invite the submission of proposals for scientific workshops to be held at the National Institute for Theory and Mathematics in Biology (NITMB).

A **Scientific Workshop** at the NITMB is a 3-5 day focused program in a specific area of current research at the intersection of biological and mathematical sciences. NITMB Workshops typically have only a few formal talks; the bulk of the time is allocated for discussions, brainstorming, informal chalk talks, with adequate time for initiating research projects within smaller groups. Workshop organizers are also expected to launch the workshop with a half-day tutorial that provides general background for an interdisciplinary audience to engage effectively with one another and with the scientific questions.

When do workshops happen?

NITMB Scientific Workshops take place in Fall (September - December), Spring (January-May), and Summer (June-August).

NITMB Support

Scientific workshops receive full administrative support and some financial support from NITMB, including lodging, travel, and local support for all of its participants. This allows organizers to focus solely on the scientific aspects of the activities. We expect **15 to 30 invited participants** for each workshop, with a typical workshop size of **50–75 people**.

How to apply?

Proposal: Provide the information described in the NITMB workshop template available on the NITMB website at <https://tinyurl.com/2es693dy>

Once a proposal is selected, members of the NITMB Workshop Committee and the NITMB staff will work with the workshop organizers to finalize the workshop date, align the workshop's format with its goals, and plan and execute the logistics.

Deadlines

The Selection Committee accepts proposal applications on a **rolling basis**. The committee meets two times a year to evaluate proposals. The deadlines for consideration of proposals at each of these meetings are: **in 2026, April 15 and October 1; 2027 and beyond, March 1 and October 1.**

Selection Criteria

The following are factors in the evaluation of scientific workshop proposals:

Integration of mathematics and biology: We seek proposals on topics with potential for generating new mathematical frameworks that will lead to new biological understanding, through theory, data-informed mathematical modeling, and computational and statistical tools.

Connection with our scientific research themes:

1. Fidelity and Variation
2. Fitness and Optimization
3. Information Processing
4. Learning and Adaptation
5. Prediction and Anticipation

More information can be found at: <https://www.nitmb.org/research>

Potential to enhance communication between domains: Successful proposals lay out a plan for facilitating productive interactions between mathematical and biological scientists.

Potential to broaden participation: Competitive proposals have leadership and proposed participants from all backgrounds, and their activities include efforts at broadening participation and developing future scientific leaders from all backgrounds.

Potential to seed new interdisciplinary research collaborations: The NITMB supports research collaboration between mathematics and biology that can lead to discovery in either or both domains. Successful workshops may lead to focused research group award [applications](#) and/or future workshop applications organized by some of the organizers and/or participants.