digIT is a program for high school students. It involves two camps and a six month mentoring program.

We are looking for 40 enthusiastic people with information communication technology backgrounds to join our mentoring team for 2017.

You will be supporting bright Australian students, from years 9 and 10, with the aim to encourage their continuance of ICT studies.

Time commitment is one day in January and one in July 2017, and a phone call, email or meeting once a month in between.

Express your interest online before Monday 24 October 2017. [https://www.asi.edu.au/digit-mentoring-opportunity/]
digIT Background

The ICT Summer Schools initiative (digIT) is funded by the Commonwealth of Australia through the Department of Education and Training. It is part of the National Innovation and Science Agenda's 'Inspiring all Australians in digital literacy and STEM' measure, which aims to increase the participation of all students and the community in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and to improve their digital literacy. The measure has a specific focus on tackling the digital divide to ensure that those students most at risk of falling behind in the digital age are given opportunities to participate and engage at all levels of education.

digIT, run by the Australian Mathematics Trust, is aimed at capable students in years 8 and 9 who are from groups which are under-represented in ICT learning areas and may be at risk of not benefiting from the Australian Curriculum: Digital Technologies.

digIT 2017

We have invited 60 students from regional and low socio economic areas of NSW and the ACT. Students are in years 9 and 10 (in 2017) and have an interest in ICT learning areas.

The students will:

• be capable and hard-working
• have an interest in furthering their knowledge, skills and understanding of ICT
• be curious – they have a love of learning
• have potential but may lack confidence in their own abilities
• be willing to engage
• have the maturity to live away from home for four nights

Students are identified through results of extension programs and competitions run by AMT and ASI.

The program will consist of

• summer residential camp, January 2017
• mentoring program, January to July 2017
• winter residential camp, July 2017

The camps will enable the students to explore all aspects of ICT through guest lectures, interactive sessions, practicals and field trips. Central to this will be the development of algorithmic thinking and coding skills.

About the Australian Mathematics Trust (AMT)

The Australian Mathematics Trust is a national not-for-profit organisation whose purpose is to enrich the teaching and learning of mathematics for students of all standards. They hold mathematics and informatics competitions, administer enrichment activities, conduct workshops for students and teachers, and publish books on mathematical enrichment for Australian and international students. The AMT selects and supports Australia’s international mathematics and informatics Olympiad teams.

Australian Science Innovations (ASI) provides support to the program.

www.asi.edu.au

Further Information

For further information about digIT and the mentoring program please contact Program Manager, Vanessa Kates digit@amt.edu.au
Mentoring program overview

We recognise that the success and influence of a residential program can be greatly increased by ongoing follow-up. The mentoring program is designed to provide real support for students who have enrolled in the digIT program.

We are looking for 60 mentors from a variety of ICT fields to join our program from January to July 2017. Mentors will receive full training, mentoring resources and ongoing support.

The mentoring program will see each student matched with a mentor recruited from a variety of ICT backgrounds and together they will construct personal goals for the student. This might include discussing study options and career pathways, undertaking further extension work with support from their mentor, developing ideas based on learnings from the camp or working on a project.

Payment and expenses

This role is a voluntary position. The program will not provide payment for time spent mentoring, nor reimbursement for time lost from employment. The program will cover the following costs:

• return flights from your nearest airport to Sydney for both the summer and winter camps, or bus travel where applicable
• meals whilst attending Macquarie University
• for each camp, accommodation for one night at Macquarie University, where a same day return flight cannot be scheduled
• reimbursement for any Working with Children check fee

The program manager will make all travel, meal and accommodation arrangements in consultation. Mentors are required to cover the costs incurred getting from home to airport or bus station and their return.

Goal

To develop a relationship with the mentee that stimulates their curiosity, inspires their enthusiasm and motivates their interest in ICT studies and careers.

Role

• be a professional role model through friendliness, clear communication and setting appropriate boundaries
• actively listen, providing support and encouragement
• acknowledge the mentee’s strengths and talents, and encourage them to find ways to use them
• build mentee skills in critical thinking, logical reasoning and problem solving
• point to and encourage mentee to seek ICT role models and explore a wide variety of ICT related careers
• empower mentee, helping them to build resilience, courage and confidence
• link mentee to resources and information

Responsibilities

• attend training sessions and follow-up session
• maintain an appropriate relationship with the mentee
• communicate with program manager if difficulties arise or support is needed
• participate in the evaluation process
Time commitment

- webinar training pre-summer camp
- mentor training and meet your mentee, Thursday 19 January at Macquarie University, Sydney 1 pm to 6 pm (non-compulsory supper to 8 pm)
- contact with mentee at least fortnightly but not less than monthly, for approximately 30 to 60 minutes per contact. Contact can be via phone call, skype, email, visit to mentor’s work place or mentee’s school.
- wrap up sessions TBC July 2017 at Macquarie University, Sydney 10 am to 4 pm

How to apply

Complete the Expression of Interest found at https://www.asi.edu.au/digit-mentoring-opportunity/

Registrations close COB Monday 24 October 2016.

Suitable applicants will be contacted to arrange a telephone interview to further discuss the position. Reference and background checks under the NSW Working with Children legislation will apply. Participants must sign their agreement to the mentor code of conduct, which will be provided.

Mentor support

- training from a professional mentoring consultant
- telephone and email support from program manager, as required
- mentoring tips emailed regularly
- online mentor forum for questions and discussion

Benefits

- make a difference in the life of a student with a curious mind
- contribute to the future career of a potential ICT professional
- personal professional development
- a rewarding experience!

Selection criteria

1. successful proven interest in ICT activities
2. desire and capability to work with young people, in particular high school students
3. understanding and agreement to mentor responsibilities as listed in mentor role description
4. completed Working with Children check
5. ability to commit to time as described

Working with Children Check

Mentors are required to hold (or be willing to obtain) a Working with Children check. Please refer to www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au for details.

Once you have been informed of your acceptance as a mentor you should apply for your check without delay.

digIT is delivered by the Australian Mathematics trust 170 Haydon Drive, Bruce ACT 2617 www.amt.edu.au

digIT is an initiative of, and funded by, the Australian Government Department of Education and Training and is delivered by the Australian Maths Trust.

The views here are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of the Australian Government Department of Education and Training or the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.