



## Marine Alliance for Science and Technology for Scotland Graduate School

### Prize PhD Studentships - GUIDANCE FOR REFEREES

The Marine Alliance for Science and Technology for Scotland (MASTS; [www.masts.ac.uk](http://www.masts.ac.uk)) is offering seven fully funded PhD studentships, by open competition, to outstanding candidates from the UK and overseas. These “Prize” Studentships complement another 41 MASTS PhDs, which have been allocated across institutions and Joint Research Themes.

- Biodiversity and ecosystem function: “the web of life in the oceans”
- Coastal zone: “the land-people-sea interface”
- Marine predators: “bellwethers of change”
- Sustainable mariculture: “Scotland’s largest agricultural export”
- Genomics: “predicting effects and responding to change”
- Fisheries: “sustainable harvesting from the oceans”
- Physical oceanography: “the fundamental driver of change”
- Modelling: “synthesising knowledge and building hypotheses”
- Platforms and sensors: “observing the oceans”

Each Prize Studentship will involve prolonged periods of research at more than one partner institution, and will benefit from specialized training and development programmes under the auspices of the MASTS Graduate School.

We have asked candidates to demonstrate the achievement of academic excellence. For the selection process, it would be helpful if your reference could cover the following key areas:

1. Your professional relationship to the candidate.
2. Academic ability and potential for independent thinking.
3. Aptitude of the candidate for PhD research and their motivation.
4. Key skills of the candidate: including numeracy and technical ability.
5. An assessment of the candidates numeracy and technical ability

Please submit your reference before midnight on **13<sup>th</sup> December 2010**, by emailing it to [masts@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:masts@st-andrews.ac.uk).

Make sure that the filename begins with the candidate’s family name (e.g. **Miller-reference01.pdf**). Individual files should be no greater than 5MB in size.