



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

### Prize PhD Studentships - GUIDANCE FOR SUPERVISORS

MASTS is offering seven fully funded PhD studentships, by open competition, to outstanding candidates from the UK and overseas. These “Prize” Studentships complement the other 41 MASTS PhDs, which have been allocated across institutions and Joint Research Themes.

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.

Candidates have been asked to submit applications and all supporting documents **before midnight on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2010**.

#### **Proposal Development**

Candidates have been advised to identify and contact supervisors at an early stage in developing their proposal. Please note that if you are considering working with a candidate to make an application, the proposal submitted should be of their own making, with your guidance. Please do not encourage candidates to submit a proposal that has been developed by yourself or others, as the Selection Panel will take this into consideration.

There is an expectation that Prize Students will spend extended periods of research in at least two MASTS institutions. Applications from candidates where this has been taken on board will be given priority. Where a candidate and proposal are considered to be of very high quality, but the work is based at a single institution, a studentship will only be offered upon formal agreement on joint hosting arrangements. The Dean of Graduate Studies will facilitate this process.

**Applicants will be required to indicate on their application form what contribution their proposed supervisors had in writing their project proposal.**

#### **Finances**

1. Funding for Prize Studentships has been calculated at £20k/yr over four years.
2. It is for the institutions concerned to agree on the duration of the studentship; but 3.5 years, in-line with RCUK funding, is expected to be the norm.
3. For each studentship, 50% of the funding will come directly from MASTS; the other 50% must be come from the host institution(s). This will be confirmed with the supervisors before offers are made to selected candidates.
4. Included in the £20k costing are: stipend + registration fee + consumables + T&S.
5. Fees have been factored in at the Home/EU rate. Where international students are recruited, the institution(s) will have to make their own arrangements on the short-fall on a case-by-case basis (e.g. through ORSAS funding).
6. We must ensure equivalence across the partnership, such that all MASTS students receive the same stipend. It is assumed that the amount will be equivalent to NERC (£13,590 for 10/11) and track NERC increases over the tenure of the studentships.

7. Enhancement to this level of stipend may be made where the award is in collaboration with industry; *i.e.* a CASE-type award. Once again, to ensure equivalence, CASE studentships should receive £1,000 for the first three years from the CASE Partner (on top of their standard maintenance payment).

**Applicants will be required to indicate on their application form whether their proposed supervisor has secured the necessary funding should their application be successful.**

### **Registration and Locus of Study**

There is a requirement for all MASTS studentships to be collaborative ventures between at least two partners. The difference for the Prize students is that this should involve formal study periods in the collaborating partners: in the order of 6 - 12 months at each partner is encouraged. This differs from the MASTS allocated studentships, where the student may spend the duration at a single institution, but with at least one supervisor in another partner.

It is expected that the default position will be for students to register at a single institution. This will determine their administrative requirements. Institutions may, however, enter into joint-registration agreements. Where this is favoured, the process should be led by you as supervisors.

**Guidance for both Applicants and Referees can be downloaded from the MASTS website [www.MASTS.ac.uk](http://www.MASTS.ac.uk)**

**For clarification of matters relating to the application process, please email the MASTS Dean of Graduate Studies, Prof. Axel E.J. Miller: [axel.miller@sams.ac.uk](mailto:axel.miller@sams.ac.uk) .**

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