



# Marine Alliance for Science and Technology for Scotland

a marine partnership for Scotland

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## MASTS ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

The MASTS Consortium consists of member institutions awarded funds by the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) in support of the MASTS research pooling initiative. As MASTS has developed, institutions and organisation not currently part of the MASTS Consortium increasingly wish to take part in MASTS activities and initiatives. As a result, MASTS has established an Associate Membership programme. This information pack is designed to provide information about MASTS, what Associate Membership of MASTS means in practical terms and how to apply for Associate Membership.

The following categories of Associate Membership are available:

- Higher Education Institution
- Departmental and Non-Departmental Public Body
- Industry
- Non-Governmental Organisation

*Associate Membership is not currently available to individual members of the general public. Associate Members must be formally constituted organisations.*

### What is MASTS?

The Marine Alliance for Science and Technology for Scotland (MASTS) is a research pooling initiative that brings together the majority of Scotland's marine research capacity. MASTS' pools the talent of about 700 researchers and the management of resources consisting of over £66 million annually, in marine science from across Scotland.

*Detailed information about MASTS and its activities can be found on the MASTS website: [www.masts.ac.uk](http://www.masts.ac.uk)*

### What is the purpose of MASTS?

By bringing together the scientific capacity of its members, MASTS aims to ensure that marine science in Scotland remains internationally competitive and provides the academic platform and knowledge for marine governance and commerce.

### Who are the MASTS partners?

Major Universities and Research Institutes with an interest in the marine environment are members of MASTS. The principal regulators and other key stakeholders are encouraged to become Associate Members.

### How Does MASTS Work?

MASTS is delivering a new approach to marine research and governance, moving away from competition between small research centres, creating strong strategic collaborations.

### MASTS members:

- Make better use of their collective resources
- Maximise the impact of evidence and analysis
- Improve interactions among marine experts and interested parties in all sectors, including those responsible for policy development and legislative control
- Build efficient and effective communications and networks through seminars, workshops, symposia, conferences and collaborative research
- Offer tailored Graduate School training, internships and networking opportunities



## What are the benefits of Associate Membership?

- Full registration access to the MASTS website
- Full access to the MASTS Resource database
- Ability to add resources to the MASTS database
- Register PhD students with the MASTS Graduate School<sup>1</sup>
- Receive newsletters, research support calls, consultations and networking opportunities
- Apply for attendance to MASTS member only conferences and workshops
- Apply for ex-officio membership of the MASTS Executive Committee (EC)
- Submit news and material to the MASTS website and newsletter
- Apply for new funding resources to be disseminated through MASTS<sup>2</sup>
- Be full party to future project consortia developed under MASTS
- Access to the administrative resources of the Directorate similar to that offered to MASTS Members
- Ability to apply to become members of Theme and Forum Steering Groups
- Your institutional logo will be added to MASTS publicity material

Many of the benefits of MASTS membership result from being involved in MASTS activities. MASTS provides a unique network through which to access knowledge, expertise, cutting edge technology and other physical and intellectual resources.

The capacity of MASTS to co-ordinate and deliver marine science at a national level is recognised through our relationships with Government, regulators and industry. From an academic perspective, our member institutions benefit from having national and international representation as well as the necessary critical mass to attract multi-institutional and multidisciplinary research funding.

MASTS actively seeks to breakdown institutional barriers to ensure that its members maximise their potential to secure research funding and use available resources efficiently.

MASTS is linked to a number of internationally recognised and influential marine research bodies both directly and through its members. We actively seek to ensure that MASTS representatives populate opinion forming and decision making bodies relevant to marine science, governance and regulation.

We also promote the expertise within the MASTS community, take an active role in relevant consultation processes and seek to provide the best available evidence to inform decision making.

MASTS has an established record in commissioning R&D and in the provision of policy advice. The associated

administrative infrastructure makes MASTS an attractive organisation for cost effective R&D procurement and for disbursing funds. MASTS members already benefit from this capacity and we anticipate that the ability to actively co-ordinate both funding and associated research activity will be an important strategic advantage for MASTS members.

MASTS is also actively seeking to secure legal and charitable status which will allow MASTS to act more effectively and flexibly on behalf of its members. This status will be particularly important in securing international agreements, leading project consortia and in building on our established R&D commissioning capacity.

## What does it cost?

The MASTS Consortium is funded by the Scottish Funding Council and Consortium Members between 2009 and 2017. Thereafter MASTS will become self-sustaining. During this period, Associate Members pay an Annual Fee according to their membership status as follows :

- Higher Education Institution - £7,000 pa
- Departmental and Non-Departmental Public Body - £7,000 pa
- Industry – SME's £14,000 pa – Large Enterprises £30,000 pa
- Non-Governmental Organisation - £7,000 pa

## How to Apply?

A brief application form can be downloaded from the MASTS website.

Applicants are asked to provide their case for wishing to become members.

All applications will be reviewed by the MASTS Executive Committee (EC) and applicants may be asked to attend an EC meeting to make a brief presentation and answer questions. Subject to the agreement of the EC the applicant will then be invited to become an Associate Member of MASTS and to sign a standard Associate Membership Agreement. Further details, and downloads can be found at: <http://www.masts.ac.uk/about/associate-membership/>

*Please note that the Standard Agreement will only be varied under exceptional circumstances and applicants are expected to have read the Agreement and be able to accept it before submitting an application.*

<sup>1</sup>There is a one-off fee of £1300 for a Graduate student to join the MASTS Graduate school which covers attendance of up to three Annual Retreats and students are eligible to apply for places on training courses but this may be subject to an additional charge. Fees can be reduced pro rata for graduate students who may already be part way through their studentship. The one-off fee quoted relates to this financial year and may be amended for student intake in future years.

<sup>2</sup>New funding refers to new awards gained by MASTS that are not part of the Consortium shared costs/funds allocated under the original pooling agreement with the SFC.