



Marine Alliance for Science and Technology for Scotland Graduate School

2018 Call for Proposals from PhD Supervisors Funding available for PhD Studentships

The Marine Alliance for Science and Technology for Scotland (MASTS: www.masts.ac.uk), in conjunction with Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), is offering 50% funding for up to two Ph.D. studentships for outstanding projects. SNH would be interested in proposals in the following areas and linked to an appropriate MASTS Theme/Forum (50% funding required from host institution):

- Impacts on marine ecosystems of man-made structures and activities on the coast and in the sea
- Understanding connectivity of marine species (particularly PMFs) to optimize benefits of spatial management measures
- Tracking and quantifying carbon sequestration, cycling and storage in marine habitats / species
- Study of diets and foraging / roosting locations of inshore wintering wildfowl (grebes, divers, seaduck) in pSPAs in Scotland
- Movements of diadromous fish (excl. salmon) in Scottish coastal and inshore waters
- Elasmobranch habitat use and distribution in Scottish waters
- Analysis of change in Scottish coastal habitats

A completed application form should be emailed to masts@st-andrews.ac.uk before 16.00 on Thursday 29th March 2018. Enquiries can also be directed to this email address.

Applicants do NOT require endorsement from anyone in SNH prior to submitting their application. If you are successful, a supervisor from within SNH will be linked to the project.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

- MASTS/SNH will contribute a maximum of 50% of the total costs outlined below: Any additional financial commitments from third parties should be used to offset the costs to MASTS/SNH and the host institution equally.
- There is no additional budget line for consumables/travel.
- Funding is available for up to 3.5 years only.
- Funding will cover student stipend, at Research Councils UK published rates; university registration fees, at the 'Home/EU rate'; and Graduate School fees.
- Students who do not meet the Home/EU eligibility criteria may be liable for 'Overseas' fee rates. The cost difference between Home/EU and Overseas fees is a matter between the candidate and the institution; and should be discussed during the application stage but will not be covered by MASTS/SNH.
- Studentships are expected to start in October 2018. Should there be any delay in appointing the studentship, it is important to note that the sum MASTS is prepared to commit for the studentship is fixed at the time we award the studentship.

Assumed Total Cost of Stipend (Per Studentship)*	£53,983
Assumed Total Cost of Fees (Per Studentship)	£15,563
Graduate School & PG Cert Fees**	£1,400
Total Cost of Studentship	£70,946
Maximum cost to MASTS/SNH	£35,473
Maximum cost to each academic partner (or other sponsor)	£35,473

**Subject to normal cost of living increase.*

***MASTS will pay the costs of the student to enrol on the MASTS PG Cert*

FURTHER DETAILS

1. The studentships must be jointly supervised between two MASTS partners. SNH will provide an additional supervisor for each funded project.
2. Each project should involve a period of research at more than one partner institution.
3. The process will be conducted in two stages: 1) Approval of project; and 2) Recruitment of candidates.
4. Project proposals will be assessed within one month of the application submission deadline.
5. The highest-ranking proposals will be selected and asked to seek candidates.
6. Candidates will be selected on the basis of the host institutions normal academic procedures, as agreed between partners. This process must be open to MASTS review to ensure standards are maintained.
7. Successful candidates will be expected to start their programme of research on 1 October, 2018. The successful candidates will be inducted into the MASTS Graduate School in addition to following their own institutional procedures, and will be enrolled on the MASTS PG Cert. Where suitable candidates cannot be recruited to start on 1 October 2018 projects may be withdrawn and reallocated.