



**Scottish Natural Heritage**  
All of nature for all of Scotland

## Application Form for SHN-MASTS PhD Internship Proposals

### A. INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROPOSED INTERNSHIP

#### 1. Proposed project title (25 words)

**Stocktake of progress in implementing recommendations for the protection and conservation of OSPAR listed species and habitats in Scotland**

#### 2. Which area(s) of interest to SNH does the internship proposal address?

	Main area(s)	Secondary interest(s)
Marine planning and policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Coastal and Marine Climate Change	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coastal and Marine Management Advice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marine Protected Areas and Priority Marine Features	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marine research, survey and data management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sea fisheries management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

#### 3. Which MASTS Theme(s) does the proposed internship have relevance to?

	Main area(s)	Secondary interest(s)
Dynamics and Properties of Marine Systems	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Productive Seas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marine Biodiversity, Function and Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

#### 4. Background and rationale of the internship project (max 200 words).

The OSPAR list was developed as a way of highlighting a set of marine species and habitats as priorities for protection in the North-East Atlantic. Through the OSPAR North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy (2010-2020) the OSPAR Commission agreed to improve the status of threatened and/or declining species and habitats, in particular of those on the OSPAR List, and ensure that they are effectively conserved. Furthermore, OSPAR Ministers committed to halt the decline of species and habitats and prevent further loss by 2020. This included restoring threatened and/ or declining species and habitats by establishing measures to protect them from the pressures of human activities. A Roadmap has now been produced containing Recommendations that have been agreed by the OSPAR Contracting Parties. The Roadmap aims to provide a strategic approach to delivering the actions needed to protect and conserve the species and habitats on the OSPAR List. It focusses on action that needs to be taken between 2017-2025.

The aim of the proposed project is to undertake a stocktake of progress that has been made in Scotland in relation to the OSPAR List and the Roadmap.

Further information on the OSPAR List and Roadmap is available:

<https://www.ospar.org/work-areas/bdc/species-habitats>

**5. Outline of project proposal, including proposed tasks for candidate and relevant methods likely to be used (max 300 words).**

The OSPAR List contains nine habitats relevant to Scottish territorial waters. It is these habitats that will provide the focus of this stocktake. They are intertidal blue mussel beds, mudflats, cold water coral reefs, maerl beds, horse mussel beds, native oyster beds, *Sabellaria spinulosa* reefs, sea pen and burrowing megafauna communities, eelgrass beds.

The overall aim is to produce a report that summarises progress in implementing the Roadmap for relevant habitats. The report will also aim to summarise other action that has been taken in Scotland that contributes to the conservation of these habitats.

The objectives are:

1. Collate information and data relating to the nine habitats. The focus is on collating information that will inform the assessment of progress against the Roadmap actions.
2. Complete assessments for each of the nine habitats. These assessments should provide a clear rationale for any conclusions that are drawn about progress, and for any recommendations for future work.
3. Use these assessments as the basis for a workshop with SNH staff to agree conclusions and recommendations for future work.
4. Use the outputs from the assessments and the workshop to complete a stocktake report summarising progress.

The output from this project will be a report following SNH's house style. It is expected that this report will contain maps and images.

This is a desk-based internship. The student will be given access to relevant data sets and referred to published sources of information. They will also be put in touch with specialist staff in the marine teams in SNH relevant to the nine habitats. It will be important for the student to engage with these staff at the start of completing each of the habitat assessments to receive a briefing on progress that is not yet in the published literature.

**6. What impacts will this internship have, what deliverables or outcomes are likely, why is this work important to SNH? (max 200 words)**

This project will provide SNH with an up-to-date assessment of progress in implementing the Roadmap, as well as more generally assessing work that contributes to the protection and conservation of relevant habitats in inshore waters that are included on the OSPAR List. It will be valuable to have this completed in early 2020 because this is a year that a lot of the international Ministerial commitments relating to biodiversity and marine conservation have set as deadlines either for action, for reporting or both.

There is potential to produce an SNH Commissioned Report for external publication from the above deliverables.

**7. Does this proposal link to industry and/or policy and/or regulation? (max 200 words)**

This project relates to marine policy work. The OSPAR Convention is one of the key mechanisms by which Contracting Parties in the North-east Atlantic collectively take action to protect and

conserve marine habitats and species. It is likely that post-EU Exit that greater emphasis will be placed on meeting the requirements of the OSPAR Convention, including those set out in the North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy. SNH contributes mainly to the Biological Diversity and Ecosystems work area which relates directly to this project. Marine Scotland is also involved in this work area, as well as others e.g. Human Activities, Hazardous Substances and Eutrophication.

**8. What is the proposed schedule or timetable for work during internship? (max 200 words)**

The project is planned for Winter 2019/20, although there is some flexibility. SNH will provide a template for collating information on each habitat, and a draft structure for the report. The SNH supervisor will be responsible for the logistics relating to the workshop.

*Weeks 1-2* – Introduction and agreement on more detailed scope of work, including approach to assessing progress for individual habitats. Discussion of relevant information sources, and transfer of data on habitats. Briefing on OSPAR and progress and relevant initiatives (e.g. MPAs, PMFs etc). Trial approach to assessing progress on two habitats (text and GIS maps).

*Weeks 3-6* – Comments from and discussion with supervisor, and other relevant staff, to provide feedback on trial habitats. Complete drafts of all habitat assessments. Documents should be circulated for comment when they are completed. Supervisor and others to provide comments within one week of receiving drafts.

*Weeks 7-9* – Revise habitat assessments. Combine all information into draft report (text, GIS mapping and formatting etc). Draft conclusions for discussion at the workshop. Also highlight gaps so that these can provide a focus for thinking about recommended actions. Work with supervisor to agree workshop agenda.

*Week 10* – Attend staff workshop to review draft report and agree conclusions, recommendations and key messages.

*Week 11-12* – Complete final report. Agree with supervisor.

**9. Does this internship have any dependencies? (i.e. ship time, fieldwork, specialist facilities or resources, software, high cost items, location dependency, etc) (max 100 words)**

This is a desk-based project and so there are no seasonal/fieldwork dependencies. There is not a locational dependency in terms of carrying out the majority of the work. However, the student would need to be able to travel to a small number of meetings in either Inverness/Edinburgh/Perth. We would offer hosting at our Inverness office. The student would also need to have access to GIS software.

**B. INFORMATION ABOUT THE SNH SUPERVISING STAFF MEMBERS**

**10. Name**

Carol Hume

**11. Email address**

[carol.hume@nature.scot](mailto:carol.hume@nature.scot)

**12. Any previous experience of supervising students (undergraduate/ postgraduate)**

Student placement coordinator for marine and coastal activities within SNH for 3 years.

**Please duplicate Q.10-12 for any additional staff members involved in supervising the intern.**

## C. FUNDING

**13. The National Minimum Doctoral Stipend for 2019/20 is £15,009. SNH-MASTS have submitted bids to provide the equivalence of up to 3 months funding i.e. £3,752.25, payable to the intern. Confirmation of this bidding success will be known in the latter part of March. If the internship will incur additional costs, please detail these below and indicate the source of SNH or any additional funding. Not applicable.**

**14. Please include any other relevant information about the internship not covered elsewhere.**

This project is of considerable interest to Marine Scotland and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee and it is therefore likely that although they will not be formal supervisors, that one member of staff from each of these organisations will be involved in the project. This is expected to be through providing comments on draft reports.

**Please submit proposals in an Expression of Interest form to the following contact by 12pm, Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019.**

Emma Defew [masts@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:masts@st-andrews.ac.uk) 01334 467200  
Programme Co-ordinator & Deputy Dean of the MASTS Grad School, MASTS

Thank you.