# Third Call for Proposals

**MASTS-SFC Saltire Emerging Researcher Scheme (MASTS-SERS)**

MASTS in association with the Scottish Funding Council is supporting the Saltire Emerging Researcher Scheme. The scheme represents an important and exciting opportunity for Post Graduate Researchers (PGR) and Early Career Researchers (ECR) to engage in substantive collaboration with colleagues from Europe (EA, EEA and EFTA countries).

The scheme will be open to PGRs and ECRs registered at any eligible MASTS or EUMS, EA or EFTA institution (see Annex A for a list of eligible institutions) and can support both outgoing and incoming exchanges and placements. Exchanges or placement must take place between January 2022 and August 2022, can be up to six months in duration and can be undertaken as a single visit or in multiple blocks of time.

The maximum sum provided by the MASTS-SERS programme would be £10,000 per award. It will be the responsibility of the recipient of the grant and their host institution(s) to ensure that the exchange complies with all necessary travel and work conditions that apply in their respective countries. Applicants will need to identify risks, mitigations and contingencies with respect to the successful delivery of the stated aims, objectives and outputs of the proposed exchange (e.g. in the event of continued COVID related restrictions).

Each MASTS HEI partner institution\* will be eligible to receive one exchange grant (subject to meeting quality criteria) which may be used to support exchanges of PGRs or ECRs\* to or from an eligible European institution(s).

*\*This third call is open to the following institutions: Heriot Watt University, University of Dundee, and Robert Gordon University.*

The scheme will promote mobility between Scotland and European research partners with the aim of strengthening existing, and seeding future, research relationships. Participants will be expected to demonstrate the impact of their exchange through the publication of novel research work, the formation of new collaborations and project/ funding submissions, and the dissemination of their results.

There is no restriction on the subject area (within the broad scope of aquatic research), but the proposals will need to demonstrate the potential benefits of the grant for both the recipient and their collaborators. Applicants are encouraged to consider subjects relevant to UN Sustainable Development Goals, COP26, River Basin Management planning, the Blue Economy Action Plan and other relevant programmes.

*\*ECRs are researchers who do not hold a permanent research position and are no more than 5 years past the date that they were awarded their PhDs.*

**Eligibility**

The visiting PhD student or ECR must identify a demonstrably active and relevant host institutional collaborator for the proposed collaboration. PhD students must provide an e-mail from their Primary Supervisor supporting their application. In addition, the host institution must confirm their willingness in principle to host the visiting researcher for the proposed purpose and duration.

**Submission and Selection**

Applicants must complete the application form below and submit it by email to masts@st-andrews.ac.uk by **1200 (BST) on Friday 8th April** 2022. Applications arriving after the submission deadline will not be considered.

Proposals will be scored through a process of double-blind review by at least two independent reviewers. Our intention is to conclude the proposal assessment and final selection process within three weeks of the submission dealine for applications.

Successful applications will be notified by email after Easter.

**Eligible costs**

This grant funding is principally to support physical exchanges of applicants to cover the cost of travel and subsistence and modest research costs. Networking is an important facet of collaboration and funds can be used for this purpose. Proposals that will result in clear outputs such as the generation of a proposal, research results or publication are encouraged.

Successful applicants are responsible for ensuring any visa and insurance requirements for the host country, including the cost of these, are met, and for compyling with any border-entry requirements and costs of these.

While not excluded, it is anticipated that host insitutions will waive bench fees. Applicants are encouraged to seek additional support in cash or in-kind.

Receipts for all expenditure related to the grant may be requested as evidence of expenditure by the grant awarding body.

If successful, funds will be transferred to the relevant MASTS Institution. Funds must be spent by 31st July 2022.

MASTS reserves the right to claw back funds should the grant not be used in accordance with these T&Cs and any unspent funds, must be returned to MASTS.

Should an exchange be deemed by the MASTS Directorate, in consultation with the recipient, to be unviable, the unspent funds will be made available to applicants from the same MASTS institution in the first instance and then to other MASTS members if a suitable application is not submitted within a specified time period.

**Requirements**

All successful applicants will be required to provide a brief experiential report within four weeks of the end of their project. The report or parts thereof may be used to promote the activities of MASTS.

All successful applicants will be expected to represent, promote and formally acknowledge the sponsors (MASTS, SFC & Scottish Government) during the course of their project and in any subsequent related outputs.

This award is subject to ongoing review due to the current COVID-19 situation and the impact it may have on the research consortia’s ability to deliver their activities.

All exchange participants in the SFC Saltire Emerging Researcher Scheme will be expected to take part in a cohort-wide event and associated activities, to be coordinated by Research Innovation Scotland (RIS).

Subject to relevant GDPR provisions, participants in the exchange programme will be asked to indicate if they consent to further contact for promotional activity on behalf of the delivery bodies and the Scottish

Government.

MASTS will contact the awardees and/or their supervisors to gather additional post-exchange impact

information within one year of completion of the exchange. This information must be provided on request.

Any changes to planned exchanges must be approved by MASTS.

Contingency plans for your exchange, that account for returning COVID-19 restrictions that could impact on your travel, must be considered and outlined in your application

### Information

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Applicants Name** |  |
|  |  |
| **University & Department** |  |
| **Full address** | XXX Street Name Building XYZCity, Postal Code |
| **Email address** |  |
| **Phone number** |  |
|  |  |
| **PhD Students Only** **Name, title and contact info of primary supervisor** | Provide name, title and contact information |
|  | . |
| **Proposed Host Insitution Details** | . |
| **Name and Title of Host organisation primary research contact** | Provide name, title and contact information  |
| **University & Department** |  |
| **Full address** | XXX Street Name Building XYZCity, Postal Code |
| **Email address** |  |

### Exchange overview

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Exchange** title (200 characters max) |  |
| **Anticipated exchange start date** (no earlier than February 2022) |  |
| **Anticipated exchange end date** (no later than August 2022) |  |
| **Project Location(s): Identify location(s) where exchange will be undertaken** (with title/address) |  |

**Exchange Abstract (Max 300 words)**

|  |
| --- |
| Briefly describe the exchange using language accessible to a non-specialist. The abstract may be published on the MASTS websites for successful exchanges. |

**Exchange summary (Maximum 1 page – Arial, font 11, single space)**

|  |
| --- |
| Briefly describe the exchange objectives, activities and anticipated outcomes. Please detail the agreement with your collaborator regarding use of facilities and resources including whether you have secured any match funding (in-kind or cash). Describe the wider benefits of the exchange to you as an applicant, your institution and the MASTS community. How will you maximise these benefits? How do you plan to ensure a sustainable collaboration in the longer-term and maximise opportunities and impact in the future? |

**Relevance to larger programmes (Max 200 words)**

|  |
| --- |
| Briefly describe how the proposed exchange aligns with any larger programmes such as the UN SDGs, COP26, UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration, UN Decade for Ocean Science, River Basin Management Planning, the Blue Economy Action Plan etc. Have you identified future funding or training opportunities post-award?  |

**Contingency plans (Max 200 words)**

|  |
| --- |
| Briefly describe any risks, mitigations and contingencies with respect to the successful delivery of the stated aims, objectives and outputs of the proposed exchange if Covid restrictions emerge that mean you cannot travel. |

**Budget**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Item Number** | **Description** | **Cost per Unit** | **Number of Units** | **Total Amount (£)** |
| **1** |  |  |  |  |
| **2** |  |  |  |  |
| **3** |  |  |  |  |
| **4** |  |  |  |  |
| Add more rows if needed |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total requested** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **In-kind contributions\*** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **In-cash contributions** |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Grand Total** (Total requested from scheme + In-kind + Cash) |  |  |  |  |

\* Matched funding will be considered as an additional beneficial factor, including in-kind commitments (taking account of the career stage of the applicants).

|  |
| --- |
| Please attach letters/emails confirming:1. The host institution agrees in principle to accept you as a visiting researcher for the purpose and period of the exchange if awarded.
2. If you are a PhD student, that your Primary Supervisor agrees in principle to your application and is content for you to undertake the proposed research/collaboration for the period of the grant if awarded.

Please append a CV of no more that 2 pages in length for both the applicant and the principal research contact of the collaborating host. The CVs should highlight those aspects which may be particularly relevant to the proposed research/collaboration and include any relevant recent publications (last 5 years). |

**ANNEX A of Application form - Eligible Institutions & Countries**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **MASTS**Edinburgh Napier UniversityHeriot Watt UniversityUniversity of AberdeenUniversity of DundeeUniversity of EdinburghUniversity of GlasgowUniversity of the Highlands and IslandsUniversity of St AndrewsUniversity of StirlingUniversity of Strathclyde University of West of ScotlandRobert Gordon University | **EU Member States** (EUMS) – Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain & Sweden**European Free Trade Association** (EFTA) States – Iceland, Liechtenstein & Norway |