



PROJECT PROPOSAL FORM

Making the Most of Masters aims to improve collaboration between employers and universities by providing opportunities for masters students to undertake work based projects as an alternative to a traditional university dissertation. Projects should address a real need within the host organisation and be beneficial to both host and student.

The Marine Alliance for Science and Technology for Scotland (MASTS), pools the majority of Scotland's marine research capacity. MASTS members provide Masters courses in a range of marine related disciplines and many of their students are keen to undertake applied projects outside of academia.

Notes on Topic Selection

A relevant academic will work with your organisation to refine your proposed topic and ensure it meets both your needs and the academic requirements of the student. Projects should typically be achievable within a 12–16 week timeframe (including writing the final report).

Your proposed project could be:

- A specific project title or topic for the student to deliver;
- A general idea of a business need which requires further development;
- A core research theme to be developed by the student into a bespoke project;
- An intended outcome for the organisation.

The level of detail you provide will determine the extent to which further discussion may be required with the relevant programme director to ensure suitability.

desk-based/data studies that will easily facilitate remote working and remote supervision are welcome, as well as in person and/or experimental based projects where appropriate.

What's Next?

Please send your completed form to the MASTS Programme Coordinator & Deputy Dean of Grad School, Dr Emma Defew (masts@st-andrews.ac.uk) before **16:00 on Friday 27th October 2023**.

Following submission of the form, it will be channeled to the leaders of the various Masters programmes that operate within the MASTS community and a representative from the most relevant programme or department will get in touch to discuss the project scope, delivery and the selection of an appropriate student. If more than one student expresses an interest in your project, you will need to ensure discussions take place to enable the most suitable student to be matched with your project. The projects themselves usually won't start until May or June.



Making the Most of Masters

MASTS - Making the Most of Masters – Project Proposal Form

Name and address of Organisation:

Bp North Sea

bp International Limited. Registered office: Chertsey Road, Sunbury on Thames, Middlesex, TW16 7BP

Name of the key contact in Organisation:

Melanie Netherway

Contact e-mail and phone number:

melanie.netherway@uk.bp.com

Title of proposed project:

North Sea Long Term Environmental Monitoring Program

Project outline and intended outcomes:

Bp operates across the UKCS and in support of ongoing operations has undertaken a significant number of environmental baseline surveys and long term monitoring campaigns to gather data on the environment in which we operate. Survey techniques have changed over time but the general theme of data collection has remained consistent – with collection of seabed samples, and still images and video transects. In addition to the environmental surveys geophysical surveys have also been completed to gather site specific seabed characteristics information.

Unfortunately much of the data collection has been done in silos and in gathered in an ad hoc/as needed basis. As a result there is little standardisation and consistency in the planning of survey execution and subsequently the output/review of the datasets.

Bp would like to work with a Masters student to develop a long term monitoring strategy to support the strategic planning of future survey activity. The strategy would include:

- 1) Review of historical data sets across the 40+ years of operations to understand the quality/quantity of seabed survey data available
- 2) Mapping of this information into GIS
- 3) Coming up with a risk based approach to determine a proposed frequency for future long term monitoring surveys at each of the assets - how often do we need to return and justification for this, what data should we collect when we return (based on current regulatory requirements and potential future changes), what

- techniques should we be following to allow continued comparison of data sets
- 4) Focus in on a case study of NW Hutton survey analysis to demonstrate natural recovery of seabed over time (this platform was decommissioned 10+ years ago and we have been doing repeat post decomm surveys to demonstrate natural recovery. We would like to try and use this to advance science/academia knowledge on recovery rates)

Any additional comments e.g. details of specific disciplines required, methods to be used, travel involved, where the work would take place (i.e. at the host site or at the University), whether you foresee any Intellectual Property or confidentiality issues (and if so, what form might these take?):

Work could be completed at bp offices in Dyce, Aberdeen
Some potential confidentiality issues due to partner partial ownership of datasets but nothing a simple NDA as appropriate couldn't cover