



## PROJECT PROPOSAL FORM

Making the Most of Masters aims to improve collaboration between employers and universities by providing opportunities for Master's 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 Master's 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](mailto:masts@st-andrews.ac.uk)) before **16:00 on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> 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.



## MASTS - Making the Most of Masters – Project Proposal Form

<b>Name and address of Organisation:</b> Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)
<b>Name of the key contact in Organisation:</b> Alexandra Cunha
<b>Contact e-mail and phone number:</b> Alexandra.Cunha@jncc.gov.uk
<b>Title of proposed project:</b> Impact of chemicals in coral reef, seagrasses and mangroves
<b>Project outline and intended outcomes:</b> <p>JNCC advises the UK Government and the <a href="#">UK Overseas Territories</a> in matters of marine ecosystem conservation, monitoring and use of evidence in policy. Some of the ecosystems JNCC provides advice for are coral reefs, seagrasses and mangroves.</p> <p>JNCC is interested in the effects of chemicals (including pharmaceuticals and PFOs) present in diffuse pollution from land use and waste management, specifically from wastewater (sewage runoff) reaching the coast that can impact coral reefs, mangroves and seagrasses. Current published and unpublished information is dispersed and therefore a systematic review with recent research would be extremely useful for JNCC and partners.</p> <p>The combined effect of climate change (through increase flooding for example) and raising sea water temperature are also of interest in relation to toxicity levels change, fate and transport of chemicals reaching coastal marine ecosystems.</p> <p>The output of this piece of work could be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a state-of-the-art review of impacts of chemicals from wastewater (runoff) on coastal habitats such as coral reefs, mangroves and seagrasses;</li><li>• identification of pilot studies or mitigation projects that successfully tackled the issue; and</li><li>• information gaps or where future research would be most impactful.</li></ul>

**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?):**

This is a desktop scientific review – the student will need to have access to the most update scientific information. The student could also explore and liaise (interviewing for example) other institutions (NGOs, Research Groups, Local Governments) looking at impacts of chemicals in marine ecosystems.

The work will take place at the University with maybe some visits to JNCC Headquarters in Aberdeen or Peterborough for a discussion face to face. JNCC can cover Travel and Subsistence for these trips to partners or JNCC.

We can look into share Intellectual Property if the paper resultant can be published at JNCC webpage. Government funded projects typically seek to have Open Access and utilize Open Government License where possible.