



PROJECT PROPOSAL FORM

Making the Most of Masters aims to improve collaboration between employers and universities by providing opportunities for postgraduate 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 the deadline.

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

Name and address of Organisation: RSPB Scotland 2 Lochside View, Edinburgh EH12 9DH
Name of the key contact in Organisation: Caitlin Paul, Marine Policy Officer
Contact e-mail and phone number: Caitlin.paul@rspb.org.uk / 07703470712
Title of proposed project: Making Waves: Civic Mediation Pilot Project Evaluation
Project outline and intended outcomes: <p>RSPB is working with partners at Scottish Environment LINK to facilitate an exciting pilot project involving civic mediation, which offers an innovative approach to facilitate collaboration between stakeholders in the marine economy and members of Scotland's coastal communities. We know that a range of views exist on the current health of Scotland's seas and how they are being managed. There is a need to change the way we understand these perspectives, create an environment where we can respectfully explore differences, and work together to better manage our seas, fairly and effectively, At present, stakeholder relations are strained and demands on individuals and groups involved in marine and coastal activities are high.</p> <p>RSPB is hosting this project, and Centre for Good Relations CfGR has been commissioned to deliver the main project outcomes and the bulk of the dialogue/mediation activity (www.centreforgoodrelations.com), with funding provided by Marine Fund Scotland, a Scottish Government Grant. CfGR are experienced civic mediation practitioners with backgrounds in the public sector, voluntary organisations and private business, having worked for a number of years through tensions and issues in the environmental sector.</p> <p>The pilot project is running from August 2024 – March 2025 in either Orkney, Shetland or the Outer Hebrides subject to initial scoping. Beyond the pilot project delivery in April 2025, we will be looking to run an evaluation of how successful this project has been, which we feel would be the perfect Masters Project for a student to undertake. The evaluation can determine the success of the mediation process, how well the project has</p>

been delivered and received, and whether there may be value in extending such a project. We can offer valuable insight into the marine community in Scotland and exciting opportunities to network with key players in different marine sectors.

The long-term outcomes of the civic mediation process aims to:

- foster a unified vision, evidence-based understanding and solutions for marine management of healthy and productive Scottish Seas amongst stakeholders,
- facilitate collaboration and quality conversations going forward,
- break down misunderstandings in a marine management context, leading to positive inputs from these stakeholders into environmental and marine consultations going forward, and
- Improve the quality of stakeholder's contributions to existing consultation processes taking place over the coming years (i.e Scottish NMP2).

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?):

Most of this will be desk based, however we could offer in-person meetings in central Edinburgh. There may be possibility of in person meetings elsewhere in Scotland, but this will be determined at a later date. The evaluation may include methods such as interviewing members of the marine community, and analyzing feedback data from the civic mediation process. The project will be based around sensitive issues and relationships in the context of marine management, and there will be confidential information from project participants. Therefore, the appropriate data protection regulations will be required.