



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.



Making the Most of Masters

MASTS - Making the Most of Masters – Project Proposal Form

Name and address of Organisation: NatureScot Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW.
Name of the key contact in Organisation: Sarah Lawrence
Contact e-mail and phone number: Sarah.Lawrence@nature.scot , 01738 458820
Title of proposed project: Investigating potential light disturbance from cruise ships on petrels / shearwater and developing best practice guidance.
Project outline and intended outcomes: Light disturbance is a well-recognised pressure acting on petrels and shearwaters. Work is underway to consider this impact pathway with respect to offshore wind farm (OWF) development, but we are also aware that during the breeding season, cruise ships anchor off seabird islands overnight ahead of a land visit the following day. Ships remain fully lit up throughout the night and have the potential to disorientate petrels and shearwaters. The degree to which this is happening is not known and the level of impact poorly understood. This project would take an initial look at identifying scale of occurrence, impact, and making recommendations for best practice to avoid/reduce light disturbance.
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?): The project could be desk based and may include engagement with relevant stakeholders and collating data on the behaviour of cruise ships during visits to seabird colony SPAs. Depending on the approach taken by the student there may be a need to use GIS. The project would suit a student with an interest in marine ornithology and presents an opportunity to help shape future management measures to protect petrel and shearwater populations at their breeding colonies. We invite the student to visit a NatureScot office to meet with relevant colleagues as well as other MSc students carrying out projects within NatureScot. Travel and subsistence may be covered for this journey.