



MASTS-PECRE final report:

Dr Cat Horswill

Dates: July-August 2018 (4 week visit)

Home Institute: University of Glasgow, Glasgow, UK

Host Institute: Centre d'Etudes Biologiques de Chizé (CEBC-CNRS), 405 route de la Canauderie, 79360, France

Host Faculty: Christophe Barbraud, Senior Researcher, CEBC-CNRS

Background

The UK supports internationally important breeding populations of seabirds, and many species are declining in part, or all of their range. Analysis of data from geographically dispersed studies can aid detection of causal relationships between demographic parameters and environmental factors, and thus elucidate mechanisms of population regulation and improve our understanding of how populations respond to environmental change. The MASTS exchange provided an opportunity to discuss my current work on the comparative demography and population dynamics of temperate seabirds with researchers working on similar questions in different study systems and with different analytical techniques.

Interactions with the hosts

During the research exchange to CEBC-CNRS, I spent time working directly with the host faculty members to develop a proposal that I submitted to the 2018 Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions research fellowship programme (September 2018). We also discussed parallels between my current research and projects conducted at the host institute in order to identify other collaboration opportunities. I spent time discussing my work with other members of the research team, as well as the post-doc and postgraduate community at CEBC-CNRS.

Outputs completed

Invited speaker: During the visit, I accepted an invitation to present my work to the institute. This was done in the second week of the visit thus immediately integrating me within the wider research team, extending my academic network with new contacts and generating discussions regarding wider collaboration opportunities.

Proposals: The research exchange resulted in the submission of a proposal to the 2018 Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions research fellowship programme. This proposal will form the blueprint for collaborations with the CEBC-CNRS in the immediate future. Other funding options for this proposal are also being discussed.

Aware size and expenditure

Total award: £1500

Travel and consumables: £1000

Accommodation: £500