

MASTS small grant report 2016, ref: SG325

By Winnie Courtene-Jones

Attending Micro2016 International conference, Lanzarote,

Poster presentation: Microplastics in the final ocean Frontier
Courtene-Jones, W., Quinn, B., Gary, S., Narayanaswamy, B. E.

The MASTS small grant award enabled me to attend and present at Micro2016 International conference in Lanzarote during June 2016. This bi-annual event brings together academics, organisations and industry from around the world to discuss the fate and impact of microplastics in the marine environment. This year saw the growth of the event from a small workshop in 2014 to a conference attracting 632 researchers with over 200 presentations in 2016.

I presented a poster over the three days of the conference entitled 'Microplastics in the final ocean frontier'. The presentation highlighted my PhD research which aims to assess whether deep sea invertebrates in the North East Atlantic Ocean are ingesting microplastics and to model potential vertical pathways that microplastics may take to reach the deep sea. My research marks the first work of its kind and received much interest and comments from esteemed academics in the field.



Microplastics in the final ocean frontier poster presentation

I found the conference to be an extremely beneficial experience. The MASTS grant gave me an invaluable opportunity to attend this conference and use it as a platform to engage with other researchers and establish myself in this field. Furthermore I was able to showcase the novel research that is taking place at the Scottish Association for Marine Science. I would very much like to thank MASTS for their financial support.



During the Lanzarote Declaration at the close of Micro2016 International conference participants were invited to the stage for a group photo