



Marine Stewardship Council Scholarship Research Program Frequently Asked Questions 2018

Undergraduate and postgraduate students of environmental and fisheries science are able to further their studies through the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) scholarship research program.

The MSC awards travel and study scholarships, up to the value of £4,000 to eligible undergraduate and postgraduate students worldwide.

To qualify for consideration, projects will have as their objective the study of some aspect of environmental improvement, performance or best practice in fisheries management, or seafood product traceability and supply chain management. This year, the MSC also welcomes applications from students researching best practice in sustainable seaweed harvesting and management. Direct linkage to a fishery certified or wishing to become certified by the MSC is not a requirement, although this is an additional point of interest for the MSC. Applications are particularly welcome for research projects in Asia, South America and Africa.

The project must be completed within 12 months of the start date stated on the application form, and the final project report must be submitted within 15 months of the start date.

The closing date for applications is Saturday, 17:00 GMT 31 March 2018.

Frequently Asked Questions

Application process

Q: What is the deadline for submitting an application?

A: Saturday, 17:00 GMT 31 March 2018

Q: What is the application procedure?

A: Completion of electronic application form. To be returned via email to: Lucy Erickson, Science Communications Manager: scholarship@msc.org

Q: How can I be sure my application has been received?

A: Your application will be acknowledged within 1 week of the closing date. If you do not hear from the MSC within that time, you should contact us immediately.



Q: What makes a good application?

A: Qualifying projects will:

- Have the objective of studying some aspect of environmental improvement, performance or best practice in fisheries and seafood product traceability and supply chain management. This may be a direct study of one particular fishery or a comparative study of fisheries problems or management. The project can be desk- or field-based.
- Direct linkage to a fishery certified or wishing to become certified by the MSC is not a requirement, although this is an additional point of interest for the MSC.
- The MSC also has a strong interest in identifying, assessing and managing the risks in seafood supply chains, for example, product substitution and mislabelling, traceability and DNA testing.
- Applications are particularly welcome for research projects in Asia, South America and Africa.

Q: How are applications assessed?

A: All applications will be evaluated using standardised appraisal criteria by the MSC scholarship award review panel. The MSC Director of Science and Standards reserves the right for final decision of the scholarship award.

Eligibility

Q: Are grants available to non-students?

A: No, applicants must be existing students.

Q: I'm a student outside of the UK, can I still apply?

A: Yes, applications are welcome from eligible students worldwide.

References

Q: When do you take up references?

A: We require a supporting statement from the project supervisor with the application.



Application outcome

Q: When do I find out about the status of my application?

A: All applicants will be informed of the outcome of their application within 6 weeks of the closing date.

Q: If I am successful, when will I receive the funding?

A: The MSC will make a payment of 75% of the total scholarship award in the month preceding the given start date of the project. Earlier payment may be requested in writing by the scholarship recipient with supporting explanatory information.

The remaining 25% of the scholarship award will be made on receipt of satisfactory project summary report and blog post.

Payment will be made to the scholarship recipient, or to another payee nominated in the application form (if an organisational applicant).

Payments will not be made for retrospective spending made prior to the formal offer of the scholarship programme award.

Q: How long will the money be available for?

A: The project must be completed within 12 months from the start date stated on the application form.

The final activity report, project summary report and supporting materials must be submitted to the MSC **within three months** after the project end date.

Project costs

Q: Do you provide funding for projects outside the UK?

A: Yes, we accept applications from projects and students based across the globe.

Q: Will the scholarship cover salary costs?

A: No.

Q: What types of equipment will grant funds cover?

A: Travel, accommodation and the hire or purchase of essential equipment.



General grant information

Q: What happens if the grant does not start on the correct date?

A: Before a scholarship can be paid, scholarship recipients **must** provide to the MSC details of the project start date and expected date of completion. Any variation over one month from these dates **must** be notified to the MSC in writing (email).

Q: What happens when the grant ends?

A: The remaining 25% of the scholarship award will be made on receipt of satisfactory monitoring and project summary reports.

The MSC reserves the right to promote the project summary report and publish associated materials in the fisheries/environmental press (and/or another publication appropriate to the field of work).

The MSC encourages all scholarship applicants to present the results of their projects at relevant conferences and/or submit their research for publication in a scientific journal once the project is completed.

Q: What happens if I cannot complete my project on time?

A: If the scholarship student fails to submit their summary report within 3 months of the project end date, they will not be eligible for the final 25% of their scholarship award funding. The MSC reserve the right to extend the project deadline in exceptional circumstances. Applications for extension beyond must be made in writing, proposing a revised date and agreed by the MSC.

Q: How many project scholarships are awarded each year?

A: The MSC typically awards two scholarships each year.

Further questions?

Please email any further questions to: scholarship@msc.org