

LEVERHULME TRUST DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIPS
“UNDERSTANDING MARITIME FUTURES: OPPORTUNITIES, CHALLENGES, THREATS”

GUIDANCE AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION FORM – 2017

Scheme Outline:

The Leverhulme Trust awarded the Southampton Marine and Maritime Institute a number of fully funded PhD grants. The SMMI *Understanding Maritime Futures* Leverhulme Trust Doctoral Scholars will address key global issues such as access to resources, safety and security, the effects of rising sea levels, technical advancements and autonomy, our responses to natural and human disasters, the impacts on people, and the ways people living by and from the sea understand their experiences and cultural heritage. The vision for the programme is to develop transdisciplinary thought leaders and researchers who have a unique human-centred approach to understanding, living, and working with the sea. The programme aims to facilitate a different, more creative and holistic way of problem solving to address marine and maritime societal challenges.

The scholarships are funded for 3 years at RCUK levels **and each will include full-time UK/EU fees**. The focus of the scheme is on matching the best possible candidates to the most innovative and interesting projects. As such, matching or part-funding from University faculties, external partners, and stakeholders is not a requirement for these scholarships, but would help demonstrate commitment to and support for the project. Where possible the extra monies will be used to increase the cohort size through underwriting additional scholarships. This year we particularly encourage applications from research teams who have not previously received LTDS funding.



The programme particularly encourages projects that:

- propose a transdisciplinary approach to tackle an important societal challenge in the marine and maritime realm;
- are useful in informing national and international decision makers from government, business and civil society;
- have direct benefit to marine/maritime stakeholders such as port authorities, aid and/or government agencies, businesses, seafarers and coastal communities;
- challenge public understanding and/or capture the public imagination.

SMMI members¹ are invited to propose transdisciplinary projects that tackle major maritime issues. It is expected that the cohort of PhD students will provide the core of an expanding and integrated knowledge basis which will assist with the pressing maritime issues of the future. The enduring legacy of Leverhulme Trust investment in our PhD graduates will be a new type of highly employable research leader. The LTDS Maritime Futures application process has **two stages**.

¹ Colleagues can request to become members of SMMI by contacting S.B.Smith@soton.ac.uk

Stage 1: Provisional Selection of Projects. The Understanding Maritime Futures LTDS Steering Committee will shortlist projects to be taken forward to Stage 2.

Stage 2: Recruitment of Candidates and Final Selection of Projects. At least 5 scholarships will be awarded to start in October 2017. Academic excellence of individual doctoral candidates and their fit with the proposed project will be the principal driver for selection. We seek excellent (usually 1st Class Masters-level qualification) polymath UK/EU candidates with the abilities and desires to move beyond their undergraduate disciplinary knowledge into other fields to be better able to tackle important societal challenges that require a range of skills and experience. This could involve a physical scientist, life scientist or engineer developing an understanding of legal, psychological, economic, or social science concepts and practices, or a humanities scholar acquiring a technical understanding of climate change and developing the numerical, statistical, geographic information or computational skills. PhD students will be recruited through open competition and interviews overseen by the LTDS Understanding Maritime Futures Steering Committee.

Timelines:

By 12 th December 2016:	Understanding Maritime Futures LTDS Steering Committee will receive completed application forms from SMMI Members.
By 20 th December, 2016:	Understanding Maritime Futures LTDS Steering Committee will review applications and shortlist 6-10 projects to be advertised nationally and internationally
13 th February, 2017	Closing date for prospective PhD student applications.
20 th February, 2017	Maritime Futures LTDS Steering Committee and Supervisors to review applications and select candidates for interview.
March, 2017	Candidates to be interviewed in Southampton by Maritime Futures LTDS Steering Committee and supervisory teams.

Application Criteria:

To register a potential project for consideration, the attached application form should be completed and submitted by **5 pm 12th December 2016**. Supervisory teams will be notified if their project has been selected for **Stage 2** by **20th December, 2016**.

The application form must contain the following information:

- Project title
- Names of all supervisors and their Faculty/Academic Unit.
- Proposal of Maritime Futures research project (approximately 1000 words) to include:
 - The project's relevance to the Scheme Outline and its transdisciplinary nature
 - Rationale
 - Methodology
 - Training
 - Details of external partners and their input to the project.
 - Wider implications, impact, and future funding potential.
- A short (2 page) CV of each member of the supervisory team including recent publications and funding.
- A budget outlining ALL research costs.

Selection Procedure:

Applications will be reviewed by the Understanding Maritime Futures LTDS Steering Committee.

The review will consider:

- Excellence of project.
- Transdisciplinary nature of the project, research team, and fit with Scheme Outline.
- Excellence of supervisory team and external collaborators.
- Impact and future funding potential.
- Access to additional funding.

Conditions and Reporting:

Teams awarded LTDS funding will be required to:

- Agree a lead supervisor who will be the main contact and whose Faculty Finance Team will liaise with SMMI regarding the transfer of funds.
- Cohort training is a distinctive aspect of these scholarships and we expect all supervisory teams to be fully engaged in the development of the cohort.
- Contribute to the Understanding Maritime Futures LTDS Training Programme. Minimum requirement will be the delivery of a research paper in the LT Understanding Maritime Futures-SMMI Seminar Series.
- Produce a report at the end of each academic year for the Maritime Futures LTDS Steering Committee. This report will be due on 1 September each year and must include a review of challenges and successes, projected goals for the forthcoming year and document related abstracts, papers, and grant proposals.
- Include an acknowledgment of The Leverhulme Trust support on all publications and posters resulting from this award.