



Ocean Country Partnership Programme Scholarships

Call for Training Providers

Introduction and purpose

The Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) is seeking training providers to support a virtual capacity strengthening training programme for an international cohort of master's and PhD scholars, funded under the UK government's Ocean Country Partnership Programme (OCP).

OCP supports countries to:

- strengthen marine science expertise
- develop science-based policy and management tools
- create educational resources for coastal communities

The programme is funded through official development assistance (ODA) as part of the UK's £500 million Blue Planet Fund. Through the OCP, the UK government partners with ODA-eligible countries to deliver tangible and positive impacts on the livelihoods of coastal communities that depend on healthy marine ecosystems.

Bilateral partnerships under the OCP are primarily delivered by the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas), the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) and the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) on behalf of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

The ACU managed OCP Scholarships, offer a unique opportunity for students to undertake a fully funded Master's - and in some cases a PhD - in marine science in OCP partner countries: Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Belize, Ghana, Bangladesh, India and The Maldives. Aimed at early to mid-career researchers who wish to develop a career in marine science, the OCP scholarships support world-class research and innovation in the areas of:

- marine pollution
- sustainable seafood
- marine biodiversity

OCP Scholarships fully fund marine science related courses, specified by the host universities, for scholars in each of the OCP partner countries (anticipated cohort of ~150 scholars on award in 2024/25).

The overall aim of the scholarships is to strengthen the capacity of OCP partner countries to address marine environmental challenges. The OCP awards are



designed to support scientific research that will contribute to the conservation and sustainable management of marine resources.

Between June 2024 and February 2025, OCPP will provide an additional virtual training programme open to all OCPP-funded scholars, with modules focused on the following three topics:

1. How to support the contribution of science to policy and/or management tools
2. How to create science-based educational resources for communities
3. Proposal writing

The ACU is seeking a training provider or providers with extensive experience of delivering training to post-graduate audiences in an international context to co-design and lead the delivery of the three modules.

Overview of proposed training

This section provides an initial outline for the proposed training and should be understood as a starting point for co-design. ACU will undertake a survey in late 2023 of all OCPP host universities to obtain a comprehensive understanding of in-house training provision. Survey findings will feed into course design. Applicants are encouraged to think critically about the proposed approach and offer alternative suggestions to meet the learning outcomes as they deem appropriate.

The virtual capacity strengthening programme will be open to all OCPP-funded scholars between June 2024 and February 2025 and will offer training related to three objectives of the OCPP through three modules:

- Module 1. How to support the contribution of science to policy and/or management tools
- Module 2. How to create science-based educational resources for communities
- Module 3. Proposal writing

OCPP-funded scholars will sign up to participate in two of the three modules, depending on their preference, for example:

1. Scholar 1 – Module 1 & Module 2
2. Scholar 2 – Module 1 & Module 3
3. Scholar 3 – Module 2 & Module 3

Each module is proposed to consist of three virtual training workshops (up to 4 hours in length each) and a collaborative applied component (although this is subject to change depending on the co-design process). As well as supporting skills and understanding development in the OCPP objectives, the training will facilitate cohort-building and the forging of transnational partnerships.



Module	OCPD objective	Timeframe	Max number of participants
Module 1 – How to support the contribution of science to policy and/or management tools	Develop science-based policy and management tools	June-October 2024	120
Module 2 – How to create science-based educational resources for communities	Create educational resources for coastal communities	August-December 2024	120
Module 3 – Proposal writing	Strengthen marine science expertise	October 2024-February 2025	Open to all scholars

Table 1. Overview information of the three proposed modules

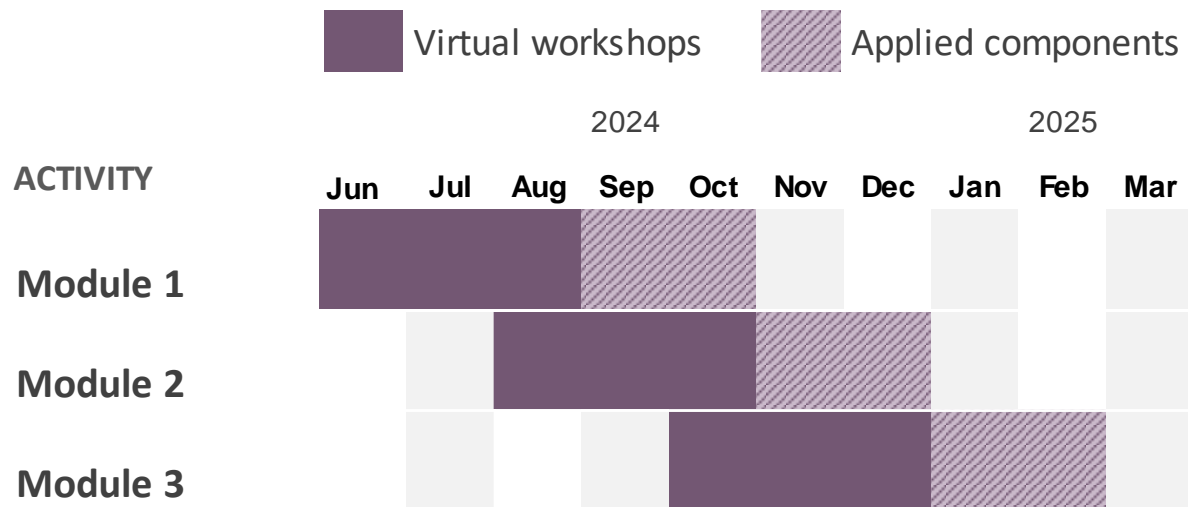


Figure 1. Preliminary workplan for the three proposed modules

Module 1 – How to support the contribution of science to policy and/or management tools

Learning outcomes for Module 1:

1. Understanding the role of science/research within policy making and/or management tools around marine-related issues
2. Understanding how to embed science/research within policy making and/or management tools around marine-related issues
3. Understanding research communication methodologies and outputs, with a focus on policy
4. Ability to collaborate across disciplinary contexts to deliver projects



Module 1 will facilitate group-based learning to provide OCPP-funded scholars with a better understanding of how to support the contribution of science to policy and/or management tools. The module will be open to 120 scholars, with country-focused sub-groups of 5 scholars developed to deliver group-based practical elements. Each sub-group will be assigned a mentor from across the ACU university network with similar country expertise to support practical elements of the training.

Activity	Timeframe
Asynchronous activity 1 – Consider your policy/management focus area	June 2024
Virtual workshop 1 – The role of scientists within the research for impact (policy/management influence) agenda, formation of country and thematic sub-groups	June 2024
Asynchronous activity 2 – As a group, define your policy area and target audience	June-July 2024
Virtual workshop 2 – How to effectively map stakeholder and how to best engage them in the research process	July 2024
Asynchronous activity 3 – Stakeholder mapping exercise within subgroups	July-August 2024
Virtual workshop 3 – Developing science-based resources for policy/management influence	August 2024
Collaborative group-based applied activity – identifying policy gaps within country contexts	September-October 2024
Presentation of policy gaps and feedback	October 2024

Module 2 – How to create science-based educational resources for communities

Learning outcomes for Module 2:

1. Understanding the role of science/research within educational resources for communities around marine-related issues



2. Understanding how to embed science/research within educational resources for communities around marine-related issues
3. Understanding research communication methodologies and outputs, with a focus on community engagement
4. Ability to collaborate across country contexts to deliver projects

Module 2 will facilitate group-based learning to provide OCPPP-funded scholars with a better understanding of how to create science-based educational resources for communities. The module will be open to 120 scholars, with thematic-focused sub-groups of 5 scholars developed to deliver group-based practical elements. Each sub-group will be assigned a mentor from across the ACU university network with similar thematic expertise to support practical elements of the training.

Activity	Timeframe
Asynchronous activity 1 – Consider your educational area and community audience	August 2024
Virtual workshop 1 – Pitching at the correct level for your audience and formation of thematic sub-groups	August 2024
Asynchronous activity 2 – As a group, define your audience	August-September 2024
Virtual workshop 2 – Forms of educational resource I	September 2024
Asynchronous activity 3 – As a group, preliminary choice of communication form	September-October 2024
Virtual workshop 3 – Forms of educational resource II	October 2024
Collaborative group-based applied activity – develop a science-based educational resource for a community group	November-December 2024
Presentation of resource and feedback	December 2024

Module 3 – Proposal writing (e.g., research proposals; development programmes)

Learning outcomes for Module 3:

1. Understanding different approaches to pursuing a PhD/Post-doctoral career
2. Understanding what makes a good research project proposal.



3. Understanding how to develop a research project proposal for PhD scholarship and/or postdoctoral fellowship applications, as well as for other contexts such as governmental work programmes.
4. Understanding the wider elements of research grant proposals, e.g., sustainability, monitoring, evaluation and learning, impact, value for money, Intellectual property, budgeting.

Module 3 will be primarily individual-based activity embedded with peer-learning, designed to support OCPP-funded scholars to prepare for a PhD or postdoctoral fellowship application. As this is primarily individual based, the module will be open to all scholars. Scholars will be placed in small sub-groups depending on the thematic focus to facilitate peer-learning. Each sub-group will be assigned a mentor/supervisor with similar thematic expertise to support practical elements of the training.

Activity	Timeframe
Virtual workshop 1 – Understanding different approaches to pursuing a PhD/Post-doctoral (prescribed/non-prescribed)	October 2024
Asynchronous activity 1 – Preparing your idea	October-November 2024
Virtual workshop 2 – Developing your idea through participatory methods (e.g., stakeholder engagement, Theory of Change workshops, needs assessment)	November 2024
Asynchronous activity 2 – Refining your idea	November-December 2024
Virtual workshop 3 – Drafting your activity proposal	December 2024
Asynchronous activity 3 – Drafting your proposal	December-January 2024
Virtual workshop 4 – Understanding the non-activity aspects of proposal writing	January 2024
Individual applied activity – Drafting your proposal	January 2024-February 2025
Presentation of draft proposals and feedback	February 2025



Scope of Work

1. Co-design of baseline survey – December 2023-January 2024
2. Preliminary training co-design – December 2023-January 2024
3. Finalisation of training content following baseline survey results - March-April 2024
4. Leading delivery of training modules:
 - a. Module 1 – June-October 2024
 - b. Module 2 – August-December 2024
 - c. Module 3 – October-February 2024

Eligibility

In order to be eligible for this post, you must be an employee of a registered organisation or registered as self-employed. ACU reserves the right to request evidence of employment status, if appropriate and necessary to do so.

At ACU, we do not just accept difference — we celebrate it, we support it, and we thrive on it for the benefit of our employees, our services, and our community. ACU is proud to be an equal opportunity workplace and encourages applications from all individuals regardless of age, disability, sex, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief and marriage and civil partnerships.

Important information

Delivery requirements

Training providers can deliver 1, 2 or all 3 modules. Applicants should indicate in their application which modules they are intending to deliver.

The applicant must be available to complete the work within the timeframe set out above.

All workshops will be held virtually via an ACU virtual meeting platform.

It is expected that the training providers consider accessibility requirements and inclusivity within their training plan (this refers to ensuring that the training delivery is accessibility for participants from different contexts, including, but not limited to, considerations around gender, disability, language, connectivity).

Funding available

A total of £30,000 (inclusive of all taxes) is available per module, to a total of £90,000 (inclusive of all taxes).

ACU support



The ACU will have the following responsibilities:

1. Working with the selected training providers to design the training content
2. Managing communication of training content within the programme and on-boarding of OCPP scholars to training modules.
3. Managing the E-platform for hosting the module content and scholars
4. Managing the E-platform for virtual workshop delivery
5. Managing the baseline survey and any subsequent monitoring, evaluation, learning surveys

How to apply

The following application documents are required:

1. A training delivery plan (up to 3 A4 pages per module) designed to meet the learning outcomes outlined above, including details of the proposed activities, intended learning outcomes for each activity, timeline, and accessibility considerations
2. A cover letter (up to 2 A4 pages) that includes:
 - a. Details of the trainers and their expertise in the training focus areas
 - b. Details of the trainers' experience in delivering training workshops, including in a virtual/remote setting in an international context
 - c. Details of their motivation for participating in this programme in this role
3. Curriculum Vitae's (CV) (up to 2 A4 pages per CV) of the proposed trainers
4. A budget that aligns to the stated delivery plan and team profile provided in Pound Sterling (GBP)
5. Contact details of two referees

Please submit your application by **Friday 8th December 2023 at 17:00 UCT**. Applications submitted after this deadline will not be considered.

Shortlisted applicants will be expected to participate in an interview via a virtual meeting platform during the week commencing **18th December 2023**.

Evaluation criteria

1. Alignment of training delivery plan to the learning outcomes of the proposed modules
2. Expertise and experience of the proposed trainers
3. Accessibility and inclusiveness of the training activities/plan
4. Value for Money

If you have any questions, please email Oluwaseyi.Akinnirun@acu.ac.uk