



OSRL Master's Scholarship Application

[OSRL](#) is the largest international industry-funded cooperative which exists to respond to oil spills wherever in the world they may occur, by providing preparedness, response and intervention services. We are wholly owned by our members and our membership represents the majority of global oil production.

OSRL and its Members recognise the need to push the boundaries of oil spill science through targeted research that bring advances in response capability, decision making tools and furthering our knowledge on socio-economic and environmental issues. Working closely with oil spill research projects ensures that an element of “operational realism” is injected into those studies to produce outputs with more direct relevance and application to advance the boundaries of future spill response techniques, capability and knowledge.

Over the last 10 years, we have developed our “*Bridging Science to Response*” programme, OSRL is pleased to announce the availability of a £10,000 Master's scholarship for the academic year 2025-2026.

We invite applications from motivated and passionate research groups who are eager to contribute to the field of oil spill response through innovative research. These topics have been short listed by the oil spill response community as subjects deserving further advancement and investigation to meet the demands of future spill response challenges.

Research Topics

Applicants are encouraged to propose research projects under one of the following topics and suggested research titles and main objectives of the project:

1. *Dispersant Effectiveness and Toxicity*

- ☐ **Effectiveness of New Dispersant Formulations on a Range of Oil Characteristics**
 - Evaluating how new dispersant formulations perform across various oil types.
- ☐ **Toxicity of New Dispersants and Dispersant/Oil Mixtures to Various Organisms**
 - Assessing the toxicity levels of new dispersants and their mixtures with oil on different marine organisms.

2. *Alternative Fuels and Spill Response*

- ☐ **The Introduction of Alternative Fuels**
 - Understanding the paradigm shift in spill response due to alternative fuels.
 - Conducting a literature search to learn how other industries handle these fuels safely and manage incidents.

3. *Operational Optimisation and Management*

- ☐ **Dispersants Operations Planning and Optimisation Software**
 - Developing software to optimise the logistics and efficiency of dispersant operations.

☐ **Rapid Flow of Information During Incidents Involving Alternative Fuels**

- Ensuring quick and reliable communication of critical information during incidents involving alternative fuels.

4. Training and Knowledge Transfer

☐ **Use of New Technologies (Gaming, AI) in Adult Learning for Emergency Response**

- Integrating innovative technologies like gaming and AI into training programmes to enhance learning and preparedness.

5. Shoreline Response

☐ **Effectiveness of Herders in Excluding Oil from Shorelines**

- Assessing the use of herders to prevent oil from reaching shorelines and their effectiveness in protecting coastal areas.

6. Cost and Frequency Analysis

☐ **Assessment and Itemisation of Spill Response Costs by Various Response Options**

- Providing a detailed analysis of the costs associated with different spill response strategies.

☐ **Comprehensive Analysis of Non-Tanker Offshore Spill Frequency**

- Studying trends and patterns in offshore well and pipeline releases.

7. Best Practices and Case Studies

☐ **Compilation and Analysis of Global Dispersant Use Cases**

- Gathering and analysing global dispersant use cases to identify best practices and lessons learned.

☐ **Dispersants in the Marine Environment**

- Investigating the toxicity, impacts, and effectiveness of dispersants on different oils and environments, including low sulphur fuels.

1. Research Proposal Application Requirements

- Research Group Experience:** Include details on the research team background, history and track record in the selected research topic from the list above. Include details on the institute affiliation, any relevant previous research projects and their outcomes / practical applications
- Research Proposal:** Include the title, aim, objectives, and expected outcomes of your proposed research project and how they meet the demands of the projects listed.
- Personal Statement:** Describe your background, motivation, and interest in the chosen research topic.
- Academic Support:** Provide details of your academic supervisor who will guide your research.
- Location:** To expand on our existing outreach, we are happy to accept proposals from the UK, US or Singapore.

Application Process

- Submit your application by 30th June 2025.
- Applications should be sent to rheashears@oilspillresponse.com .
- Ensure all required documents are included in your submission.

Selection Process

Applications will be reviewed by a committee of experts. Shortlisted candidates will be notified by 11th July 2025 ready for an interview to be completed week commencing 21st July 2025.

We look forward to receiving your applications and supporting your journey towards advancing the science of oil spill response. For any inquiries or further information, please contact Rhea Shears at rheashears@oilspillresponse.com