



OSRL PhD Scholarship Award

Request for Proposals

[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 recognises 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 and we are pleased to support this initiative by announcing the availability of a 50% match-funded 4-year PhD scholarship for qualifying institutes to the sum of £60K starting in late 2025.

We invite applications from institutes and research groups with the expertise, track record and capability to meet the scope of required research topics below. 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 description of the main objective for the project:

1. **New Fuel Oils**

- ☐ **Response Effectiveness on New Fuel Types and Oilfield Production Products**
 - Increase the understanding of the current response technologies on new fuel types, such as low sulphur fuel oils and diluted bitumen.

2. **Oiled Wildlife**

- ☐ **Oil Wildlife Recovery After Treatment and Release**
 - Identify trends in the effectiveness of oiled wildlife rehabilitation techniques and technologies, focusing on long-term impacts and survival rates.

3. **Emulsion of Crude and LSFO**

- ☐ **Formation, Breakdown, and Transport of Emulsions of New Fuel Oils**
 - Study the emulsion formation of new fuel oils due to photooxidation, interaction with particulates, and natural mixing.

4. **Subsea Mechanical Dispersion**

- ☐ **Size Distribution, Transport, and Fate of Oil Droplets from SSMD**
 - Investigate the oil droplet size distribution and movement in the water column from SSMD technology.

5. **New Marine Dispersant Formulations**

- ☐ **Investigate the development of a New Marine Dispersant Formulation**

- Create a new dispersant formulation that is publicly available and can be used by anyone interested.

6. *Dispersant Shelf-Life Viability*

- ☐ **Methods for Evaluating Dispersant Viable Shelf Life**
 - Develop standardised methods for evaluating the shelf life of dispersant products and their constituent ingredients.
- ☐ **Developing Standardised Methods for Evaluating the Shelf Life of Dispersant Products and Ingredients: A Study on Artificial Aging and Effectiveness Testing**
 - Develop methods for evaluating the shelf life of dispersant products and/or their ingredients to support industry and OSRO dispersant stockpile planning.

7. *Effectiveness of New Dispersants*

- ☐ **Effectiveness of New Dispersant Formulations and Application Recommendations**
 - Address data gaps regarding the effectiveness of new dispersant formulations on various oil types and application specifications.

8. *Chemical Herder Model*

- ☐ **Modelling the Environmental Fate of Chemical Herders**
 - Understand the chemical fate of herders in the environment under realistic application scenarios.

9. *Remote Sensing Methodologies and Dispersant Effectiveness*

- ☐ **Assessing New Remote Sensing Methodologies for Determining Dispersed Oil Effectiveness**
 - Determine the effectiveness of surface dispersant use using remote sensing capability.

Research Proposal Requirements

1. **Research Group Experience:** Include details on the research team background, history and track record in the selected topic from the list above. Include details on the institute affiliation, any relevant previous research projects and their outcomes / practical applications
2. **Research Proposal:** Include the title, aim, objectives, and expected outcomes of the proposed research project and how they meet the scope of the project.
3. **Research Budget:** Include a full breakdown of the project costings to include stipend, institute fees and any specific research costs / training required for the project.
4. **Personnel:** Include the details of any proposed candidates that will be put forward

Application Process

- Please submit your application by 30th June 2025
- All applications should be sent direct 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. Interviews will take place on the 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