

Applicant: **Richardson, Peter**
Organisation: **Marine Conservation Society**
Funding Sought: **£32,134.00**

DPR1F\1045

The fellow will read an MSc in Marine Vertebrate Ecology & Conservation at the University of Exeter. Her research will contribute to management of Montserrat's marine resources, including an action plan developed through DPLUS106. She will also develop key skills through a remote, part-time internship with the Marine Conservation Society.

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Name	Peter
Surname	Richardson
Organisation	Marine Conservation Society
Website	[REDACTED]
Tel (Work)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]

Section 1 - Contact Details

PRIMARY APPLICANT DETAILS

Name	Peter
Surname	Richardson
Organisation	Marine Conservation Society
Website	[REDACTED]
Tel (Work)	[REDACTED]
Email (Work)	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]

GMS ORGANISATION

Type	Charity/ trusts
Name	Marine Conservation Society
Phone	[REDACTED]
Email	[REDACTED]
Website	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]

Section 2 - Title, Dates & Budget Summary

Q3. Name and official address of proposed Darwin Plus Fellow

Include email details where available.

Name	Veta N Wade
Address	[REDACTED]
Email Address	[REDACTED]

Q4. Summary of proposed Fellowship i.e. Outcome

The fellow will read an MSc in Marine Vertebrate Ecology & Conservation at the University of Exeter. Her research will contribute to management of Montserrat's marine resources, including an action plan developed through DPLUS106. She will also develop key skills through a remote, part-time internship with the Marine Conservation Society.

Q5. Project dates

Start date:

01 May 2022

End date:

31 December 2023

Duration (e.g. 1 year, 2 months):

1 year, 8 months

Q6. Budget summary

	2022/2023	2023/24	2024/2025	Total
Darwin funding request (Apr - Mar)	23,302.00	8,832	0.00	£ 32,134.00

Section 3 - Principals

Q7. UKOT Involved

Q7a. Please state which UKOT (s) will be involved with the Fellowship?

Montserrat

Q7b. Have you included a letter of support from the relevant OT Government(s)? Yes**Please provide a combined PDF of all letters of support**[Uni of Exeter offer Veta Wade.docx](#)

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[Veta Wade Letters of Support combined](#)

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Q8. Principals in the Fellowship


Please give the details of the individuals from the applicant and host organisations (and other institutions if relevant) who would be directly involved in supervising/working with the Darwin Plus Fellow.

Details	Project Leader	Other Expert	Other Expert	Other Expert
Surname	Richardson	Godley	No Response	No Response
Forename(s)	Peter	Brendan	No Response	No Response
Post held	Head of Ocean Recovery	Chair in Conservation Science	No Response	No Response
Organisation	Marine Conservation Society	University of Exeter	No Response	No Response
Telephone/Skype	██████████	██████████	No Response	No Response
Email	████████████████████	████████████████████	No Response	No Response


Do you require more fields?


No

Please provide a one page CV for each of these named individuals, including the Fellow named at Q3, uploaded as one PDF.

 [3 CVs one doc.docx](#)

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Section 4 - Aims, Activities & Achievements

Q9. Describe briefly the aims, activities and achievements of the proposed Fellow's employing organisation.

Large institutions please note this should describe your unit or department.

Veta Wade is the Director and Founder of Fish 'N Fins Inc. (<https://www.aquafishnfins.com/>) based in Montserrat. The organisation teaches children to swim, snorkel and participate in marine science and conservation, irrespective of financial means and social status. Since 2015, the programme has taught more than 2000 Montserratians to enjoy the ocean. Fish 'N Fins' vision seeks to connect local people to opportunities for a restorative and equitable blue economy. Fish 'N Fins is also committed to supporting local fishers with opportunities to participate in research. The organization currently hosts approximately 35 children and youth each week in educational and practical activities under the themes such as 'Say No To Plastics', 'Sea Turtles' and 'Raising awareness of endangered corals', 'Coastal Clean Up', 'Recycling', 'Fish & Coral ID', 'Marine Science', 'Sea Safety' and 'CPR Training' with the Montserrat Red Cross. Fish 'N Fins is a partner in the Ocean Heroes Network (<https://ohwake.org/>).

Q10. Describe briefly the proposed Fellow's current role within their organisation and what relevance this has to environmental management and/or climate change in the OTs.

Veta Wade is Director and Founder of Fish 'N Fins and works with scientific and local communities towards sustainable ocean conservation. In 1995, following the island's volcanic eruptions, she was evacuated to the UK. Montserrat's marine ecosystems were also significantly affected, with over two-thirds of coral reefs smothered in ash. There has been some ecosystem recovery since, and the fishing communities and tourism industry still depend on the island's marine resources. Despite the link between the ocean and local livelihoods, there is very little understanding of marine conservation, and a prevalent fear of the sea (and sea swimming). Consequently there is a lack of investment in marine resource management. Veta returned to Montserrat in 2011 to reconnect Montserratians with the ocean. Through Fish 'N Fins she has a proven track record in:

- Environmental education;
- Empowering and mobilizing communities for conservation;
- Delivering community-wide, impactful initiatives from limited resources;
- Supporting equitable collaborations that empower indigenous people to steward their resources;
- Developing a trusted network of local and regional stakeholders;
- Developing and publicly expressing an understanding of how local culture and ecology interact in Montserrat;
- Developing a network of conservation/science influencers, youth advocates, and NGO collaborators.

Section 5 - Outcomes & Objectives

Q11. Provide a concept note on the Fellowship. This should include:

Q11a. A clear outline of the aim and objectives of the Fellowship

This Fellowship will enhance Veta's scientific research and data analysis skills through the MSc, while further developing her ability to deliver citizen-science, and her capacity to grow Fish 'N Fins, through a part-time internship with the Marine Conservation Society. By building Veta's key skills, Fish 'N Fins will become the leading locally-run, scientifically credible and

evidence-based marine conservation and advocacy NGO in Montserrat.

MSc in Vertebrate Ecology and Conservation

Veta will learn a diversity of skills to equip her for a range of work and further study. Through workshops, research seminars and field trips Veta will develop identification, survey and research skills and an appreciation of the conservation of marine vertebrates. Veta will interact with a wide range of renowned experts and academics who deliver the course. Veta's dissertation will focus on an analysis of citizen-science survey data regarding the distribution of turtles and elasmobranchs, and their habitats, in Montserrat's inshore waters generated by Fish 'N Fins volunteer snorkel surveys.

The thesis will support the 'Marine Turtle Action Plan for Montserrat' from the ongoing Darwin Plus partnership project DPLUS106. The thesis results will also support deliberations over the national Marine Spatial Plan currently under review.

Part-time internship with Marine Conservation Society (MCS)

Veta will be working closely with the MCS to develop the citizen science project through an agreed partnership project. Veta will also take up a part-time, remote internship with MCS where she will be exposed to the logistics of running a large national organisation. Nested in the MCS Ocean Recovery team, Veta will meet with the Volunteer Engagement, Fundraising, Finance and Administration and Communications teams, where she will learn from staff about specific areas of work. This exposure will transfer key skills that Veta can apply to the running of Fish 'N Fins on her return to Montserrat.

Q11b. The role of the applicant and/or host organisation, and others where relevant

Fund administration

The project will be managed by Dr Peter Richardson within the Ocean Recovery Team as part of the MCS UK Overseas Territories Conservation Programme. The Fellowship Award will be administered by the MCS Administration and Finance Team which is currently managing the finances of MCS-led DPLUS111 and DPLUS136.

Project Management Advice and Support

Dr Richardson will be working with Veta Wade on an agreed partnership project to develop and deliver marine citizen-science through Fish 'N Fins in Montserrat starting April 2022. Peter will provide project management advice and support the development and delivery of the marine citizen-science project.

Part-time remote internship

While Veta is in the UK studying and based in Cornwall, MCS will provide a part-time and remote internship. Nested in the Ocean Recovery team, Veta will meet with staff from the other conservation teams, as well as the Volunteer Engagement, Fundraising, Finance and Administration and Communications teams at MCS. Supporting the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Programme, Veta will attend meetings and support Ocean Recovery team tasks where appropriate, while prioritising her studies and dissertation. This exposure to the workings of a large national NGO will provide transferable skills applicable to the running of Fish 'N Fins in Montserrat. Similarly, Veta's knowledge, understanding and insight into Caribbean marine management, culture and politics will support the work of our UK Overseas Territories Conservation Officer.

MSc co-supervision

Dr Richardson will co-supervise Veta's MSc dissertation alongside Prof. Godley at the University of Exeter. Dr Richardson regularly co-supervises Masters students in the UK who use MCS Ocean Recovery project data. He successfully co-supervised Luc Clerveaux during his MSc at the University of Portsmouth when he managed Darwin Fellowship Award DPLUS032. Luc is now Deputy Director of the Department of Environment and Coastal Resources in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Q11c. Where appropriate, how the Fellowship will contribute towards environment and/or climate change management in the OTs i.e. what the expected outcome of the Fellowship will be, with regard to the aim of Darwin Plus.

This Fellowship will develop the key skills of one of Montserrat's foremost ocean and social justice advocates (<https://www.vetawade.com/>).

This project will support the following Darwin Plus Round 10 priorities:

To increase the area of coverage, effectiveness and condition of protected areas in pursuit of global targets;

The data generated by Veta's dissertation work will support marine spatial planning and protection currently under review as part of the draft Sustainable Ocean Policy.

The conservation, restoration and effective management of coral reefs, seagrass meadows, mangrove forest ecosystems and wetlands;

This project will use citizen-science to update and enhance mapping of inshore reef and seagrass habitats and record the presence/absence of turtle and elasmobranch species, this informing ongoing and future marine spatial protection processes.

The implementation of National Biodiversity or Environment Action Plans

While the Montserrat Conservation and Environmental Management Act (CEMA) 2014 provides for a Protected Areas Systems Plan, a National Fisheries Plan and National Strategy for the Conservation of Biological Diversity these are yet to be developed. This Fellowship will provide data to support these plans and strategies when they are developed by the Government of Montserrat.

This Fellowship proposal:

- has strong buy-in with the Government of Montserrat (see letter of support);
- focuses on delivering priority, practical in-water conservation work delivering real benefits for participants;
- involves a partnership with a Montserrat based NGOs in order to build greater capacity and capability for the partner involved to deliver environmental projects;
- will pilot a citizen-science approach that has the potential to be developed and replicated more widely within other UKOTs within the Caribbean region in the future to enhance UKOT community connections to the ocean.

Section 6 - Legacy & Collaboration

Q12. Legacy

Provide information on how the Fellow will utilise, promote and disseminate the benefits of the Fellowship on return to their UKOT. Will a strategy be developed during the Fellowship to ensure this is achieved?

A strategy to disseminate the benefits of this Fellowship will be produced as part of the collaborative work between MCS and Fish 'N Fins, and will include:

- Dissertation presentations to key stakeholder groups in Montserrat, including, for example the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Housing and Environment; Tourism Division; the Boaters and Fishermen's Association of Montserrat; the Rotary Club;
- Dissemination of learning on marine vertebrate ecology, threats and conservation via a multi-media Fish 'N Fins school outreach campaign in Montserrat;
- Ongoing development of a Fish 'n Fins volunteer marine citizen science programme in Montserrat's nearshore waters and dissemination of learning to Fish 'N Fins volunteers;
- Participatory Fish 'N Fins Art/Culture public events, presenting results & lessons learnt by Veta;
- Future advocacy by Fish 'n Fins to support Government of Montserrat in developing and implementing a Sustainable Ocean Policy, and associated Protected Areas Systems Plan, a National Fisheries Plan and National Strategy for the Conservation of Biological Diversity;
- Local ZJB Radio appearances;
- AQUA Caribbean Blue Economy Conference - virtual talks regarding the Fellowship and the future of marine resource management in Montserrat and the region.

Q13. Priorities

How will the Fellowship assist the OT's environmental priorities? Please refer to strategy papers, white papers or other materials as appropriate.

Montserrat's marine resources are important in livelihoods, health and wellbeing, food security and coastal protection through associated fisheries, recreation tourism and various ecosystem services. Whilst Governance in Montserrat is largely conservation-minded, without adequate investment in scientific research and monitoring, development of evidence, and effective public communication, marine resource managers do not have the capacity to effectively protect and sustainably manage Montserrat's marine resources.

Under the Conservation and Environmental Management Act (CEMA) 2014, the Government of Montserrat is committed to developing a Protected Areas Systems Plan, a National Fisheries Plan and National Strategy for the Conservation of Biological Diversity Sustainable, all of which would form key pillars of a Sustainable Ocean Policy.

This Fellowship supports any future development of provisions under the CEMA towards marine resource management

and supports Montserrat's and the UK's commitments to the Montserrat Environment Charter – specifically with respect to building local capacity; deploying UK expertise to support locally based conservation management and research; developing baseline data; implementing effective environmental outreach; and ensuring consideration of Montserrat's marine resources in future planning.

This Fellowship proposal relies on an equitable partnership that centres on social equity.

Q14. Collaboration

What collaboration has there been with the proposed Fellow to date in developing the proposal, and what collaboration is planned for the duration of the Fellowship? Where relevant, describe any consultation or collaboration by the proposed Fellow within their own territory.

MCS and Veta Wade have collaborated through the DPLUS106 project, where Veta is a participant in the MCS's ongoing Community Voice Method engagement element of the project initiated in Montserrat in August 2021.

Veta is also part of MCS's Caribbean UKOT network of marine conservationists, with the UKOT Conservation Officer having liaised with Veta on marine issues since 2019.

In addition, in early 2021 Veta was interviewed by MCS as part of a global 'Blue Health & Wellbeing' survey that is now informing the MCS Social Science strategy currently under development.

In November 2021 MCS and Fish 'N Fins submitted a collaborative bid to the John Ellerman Foundation UK Overseas Territories Fund to develop marine citizen-science in Montserrat. The outcome of this bid is still awaited, but if successful it will complement this proposal.

Through these collaborations Dr Richardson, Veta and Prof. Godley at the University of Exeter have liaised to develop this Fellowship application.

Q15. Where will the Fellow be based?

Please be specific with organisational details and dates (where more than one location).

2022

Montserrat: Field work, May - September

UK, University of Exeter Cornwall Campus: MSc course work, September – December

2023

UK, University of Exeter Cornwall Campus: MSc course work and PT internship, January – March.

Montserrat: Field work, April – June.

UK, University of Exeter Cornwall Campus: Thesis writing and PT internship, July – August.

Section 7 - Programme of Work & Funding

Q16. Provide a programme of work, including key milestones, through the duration of the Fellowship





Please complete the Word template linked below to describe the intended workplan for your project.

[Darwin Plus Fellowship Implementation Timetable Template](#)

For each activity (add/remove rows as appropriate) indicate the number of months it will last, and shade only the

quarters in which an activity will be carried out.

Once you have completed your implementation timetable please upload it as a PDF using the file upload tool below.





 [R10 DPlus Fellowship Implementation Timetable Template VW](#)
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Q17. Costs

Using UK Government Financial Years (i.e. April 2021 – March 2022 etc.), please provide details of the costs associated with this Fellowship in the appropriate Darwin Plus spreadsheet.

[Darwin Plus Budget Template](#)

Please note, this should not be presented as academic years.

 [Budget-under-£100K-Dec21-Veta Fellowship FINAL](#)
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Section 8 - Certification

Certification

On behalf of the

Trustees

of

Marine Conservation Society

I apply for a grant of

██████████

I certify that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the statements made by us in this application are true and the information provided is correct. I am aware that this application form will form the basis of the fellowship schedule should this application be successful.

(This form should be signed by an individual authorised by the applicant institution to submit applications and sign contracts on their behalf.)

- I have uploaded CVs for fellowship principals and letters of support.

Checked

Name


Elizabeth Nicola Spencer


Position in Organisation

Company Secretary

Signed

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Dated

10 January 2022

Section 9 - Submission Checklist

I have read the Guidance documents, including the “Guidance Notes for Applicants” and “Finance Guidance”. Checked

I have read, and can meet, the current Terms and Conditions for this fund. Checked

I have provided actual start and end dates for my project. Checked

I have provided a budget based on UK government financial years i.e. 1 April – 31 March and in GBP. Checked

The application has been signed by a suitably authorised individual (clear electronic or scanned signatures are acceptable). Checked

I have checked the Darwin Plus website immediately prior to submission to ensure there are no late updates. Checked

I have provided the relevant letters of support and CVs with this application. Checked

I have read and understood the Privacy Notice on the Darwin Plus website. Checked

We would like to keep in touch!

Please check this box if you would be happy for the lead applicant (Flexi-Grant Account Holder) and project leader (if different) to be added to our mailing list. Through our mailing list we share updates on upcoming and current application rounds under the Darwin Initiative, Darwin Plus and our sister grant scheme, the IWT Challenge Fund. We also provide occasional updates on other UK Government activities related to biodiversity conservation and share our quarterly project newsletter. You are free to unsubscribe at any time.

Checked

Data protection and use of personal data

Information supplied in the application form, including personal data, will be used by Defra as set out in the Privacy Notice, available from the [Forms and Guidance Portal](#).

This **Privacy Notice must be provided to all individuals** whose personal data is supplied in the application form. Some information may be used when publicising Darwin Plus including project details (usually title, lead partner, project leader, location, and total grant value).