



Expression of Interest for Connected Scotland visit to Brazil

BACKGROUND TO CONNECTED SCOTLAND

Connected Scotland is a partnership between British Council, Scottish Government, Scottish Enterprise Agencies, the Royal Society of Edinburgh and Universities Scotland. The partnership was launched in 2014 and aims to support the Scottish higher education sector's international ambitions in research and knowledge exchange collaboration, Transnational Education and international student recruitment.

Further information: <http://connectedscotland.org/>

VISIT AIMS

The intended outcome of the visit is to increase research collaboration between Scotland and Brazil in areas of joint interest and expertise; this includes collaboration in applied research. The above approach is based on recommendations contained in the Connected Scotland commissioned research, Brazilian Opportunities Analysis, see: <http://connectedscotland.org/resources/> and subsequent recommendations by the Brazil Working Group that has cross sector representation.

Connected Scotland also aims to create strategic engagement between Brazil and Scotland by establishing relationships with relevant funding bodies at state and federal level.

STRUCTURE

It is proposed that there are two distinct but complimentary components to the visit:

- The first component of the mission will focus on a series of meetings to facilitate the strategic framework for collaboration.
- The second component will be more practical in nature and will include themed workshops for senior researchers and early career academics in areas of joint interest to scope potential for sustained collaboration in line with the above framework and funding opportunities offered by the [Newton Fund](#).

The workshops will be help under the broad theme of **Environmental Management** with sub-themes to be determined based on the expertise of the selected Scottish researchers.

The format for the workshops will likely include briefing presentations from invited speakers and focus group sessions designed to identify knowledge gaps in areas of mutual interest and to facilitate more detailed discussions related to the development of specific projects.

A tentative timetable based on a mission of about a week could include: **two days of meetings between Connected Scotland partners and relevant state and federal stakeholders** including funding bodies, government, university associations and senior leaders of relevant institutions. This

would be followed by around **three days of academic workshops** with **researchers** from [MASTS](#) and [SAGES](#).

It is not expected that all delegates will need to attend both components of the mission. Connected Scotland partners will be involved in the different components as appropriate. Researchers from MASTS and SAGES will be involved in the workshops with the possibility of one to two representatives from the pools also participating in the strategic framework discussions component of the mission.

TIMELINE

The exact dates are still to be confirmed however Connected Scotland partners are working towards holding the mission between the **17-28 August 2015**. There can be some flexibility based on the availabilities of successful applicants.

FUNDING SUPPORT

A total of £14K will be available from Scottish Development International and MASTS and SAGES **per research pool** for delegate travel and accommodation costs. This will be granted following evidence of travel and accommodation costs, completion of a short visit report and post mission evaluation form. Delegates will be expected to cover the costs of their own travel and accommodation and will be reimbursed up to a maximum of £2,000 (but based on actual expenditure).

PARTIPANT REQUIREMENTS

Connected Scotland is seeking senior researchers to take part in the academic workshops. Participants must be both an expert in their field and also have a broader understanding of Scotland's capabilities in Marine Science or Geoscience and Environmental Science.

The workshops are primarily targeted at researchers with expertise in the relevant areas, but industry and SME representatives will also be encouraged to attend. As the focus of the workshops will be to drive tangible progress towards collaborative projects and to encourage wider participation from the research community, applications that demonstrate added value, in terms of additional visits or related networking activities whilst in the region will be favoured.

SUBMITTING AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

For the Expression of Interest please provide the following information:

1. *Title/Name:*
2. *Institution:*
3. *Email Address:*
4. *Brief summary of relevant expertise (No more than 300 words):*
5. *History (last five years) and nature of any relevant research collaboration(s) in the region (No more than 300 words):*
6. *Any specific areas of interest within the context of the proposed workshops that you would like to see addressed (No more than 300 words):*
7. *Any additional value that you may be able to offer in advancing the purposes or anticipated outputs from the workshops (No more than 200 words):*

Applications should be submitted in either MS Word or PDF format before close on **Wednesday 24th June**.

MASTS applicants should submit the above information to Emma Defew, MASTS Programme Coordinator on masts@st-andrews.ac.uk

SAGES applicants should submit the above information to Carol Thomson on Carol.Thomson@glasgow.ac.uk

Applications will be assessed by an independent panel and results emailed to applicants in early July.