# Call for Expressions of Interest – Research projects for the IMBeR- OGEN Studentship

The [Ocean Graduate Excellence Network](http://oceangraduate.com/) (OGEN) is a Canadian excellence network hosted by the Ocean Frontier Institute which recruits exceptional graduate students to Canadian universities with strong ocean research programs.

IMBeR and OGEN invite researchers to submit expressions of interest (EoI) for a project to be undertaken by a top-tier PhD student under their supervision. The EoI should provide an overview of a research project to be undertaken by a PhD student who will be the beneficiary of the IMBeR- OGEN Studentship. The information provided by the supervisor will be used to assess the project. Details of the selection criteria can be found in the Annex. Awarding of the scholarship is contingent upon final funding approval by The Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO).

Scholarship funding ($50k/yr) will be comprised of $25,000/year x 3 years DFO; $12,500/year x 3 years OGEN; **$12,500/year x 3 years supervisor/dept/university required co-funding**. The Supervisor would be required to fund the student fully beyond year 3.

**About IMBeR**

Integrated Marine Biosphere Research ([IMBeR](http://imber.info/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/IMBeR-Science-Plan-and-Implementation-Strategy-2017.pdf)) is a global research project that focuses on ocean sustainability in the context of global change. IMBeR supports collaborative, disciplinary, interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary, and integrated research that addresses key ocean science issues generated by and/or impacting society. Such research is required to provide evidence-based knowledge and guidance, together with options for policymakers, managers, and marine-related communities to help move towards sustainability of the marine realm under global change.

The [IMBeR Science Plan and Implementation Strategy (SPIS 2016-2025)](http://imber.info/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/IMBeR-Science-Plan-and-Implementation-Strategy-2017.pdf) is based on the vision: “Ocean sustainability under global change for the benefit of society,” and goal to: “Understand, quantify and compare historic and present structure and functioning of linked ocean and human systems to predict options for securing or transitioning towards ocean sustainability.” The SPIS is structured around three Grand Challenges and four Innovation Challenges supported by several research and societal questions. Please see [this video](https://youtu.be/Yw4pj32EK8M) to learn more about IMBeR.

To contact IMBeR prior to EoI submission, please email [imber@dal.ca](mailto:imber@dal.ca).

**About OFI**

[OFI](https://oceanfrontierinstitute.com/) is a transnational hub for marine research, exploring the ecosystems of the North Atlantic and Canadian Arctic Gateway to discover innovative solutions that strengthen the economy and protect the environment. OFI’s research focuses on

changes – key aspects of atmosphere-ocean interaction, resulting in ocean dynamics, and shifting ecosystems

solutions – effective approaches to resource development that are sustainable, globally competitive, soceitall acceptable and resilient to change

OFI research focuses on the North Atlantic and Canadian Arctic Gateway, which includes the Labrador Sea and eastern portions of the straits of the Canadian Arctic Archipelago.

**Supervisor Eligibility**

The call is open to researchers who are PhD student supervisors at one of the Ocean Graduate Excellence Networks’ (OGEN) partner institutions (Dalhousie University, Memorial University of Newfoundland, University of New Brunswick, University of Prince Edward Island).

The project must be pertinent to ocean sustainability but is not restricted to a particular discipline. However, priority areas of research include Indigenous fisheries, shifting distributions of species and ocean governance.

**Student Eligibility**

The IMBeR- OGEN Studentship will be awarded to a student enrolled in a PhD program at one of the four partner institutions and is open to students in their first or second year of study.

**Submission and Selection**

Submissions are due by **4:00 p.m. (AST) 31 March, 2021** and should be emailed as a single PDF file to Tracey Woodhouse at [OGEN@oceanfi.ca](mailto:tracey.woodhouse@dal.ca). During the review process additional information may be requested. A presentation about the project may also be requested by the selection committee. The award will be announced by late April. When the project proposal is selected, a contribution agreement will be submitted to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), the funding partner for the project. Once the contribution agreement is approved, student recruitment may begin. If the chosen student is already in place, they can begin the IMBeR- OGEN Studentship.

### Information on potential supervisor

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| **Supervison’s name (proponent)** |  |
| **Title of primary contact** |  |
| **University & Department** |  |
| **Full address** | XXX Street Name  Building XYZ  City, Province  Postal Code |
| **Email address** |  |
| **Phone number** |  |
| **Other information** | Provide any pertinent information, including but not necessarily limited to:   (i) a CV – 3 pages maximum (pasted into this document or attached as a pdf file), showing experience of the researcher in the areas identified;  (ii) a list of relevant publications;  (iii) a brief history of research funding in the last 5 years;  iv) additional information to support this EoI |
| **Co-supervisors** | Provide name, title and contact information of the co-supervisor, if applicable. |

### Project overview

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| **Project title** |  |
| **Anticipated project start date (no earlier than fall 2021)** |  |
| **Anticipated project end date** |  |
| **Project Location(s): Identify primary location where project will be undertaken (with title/address)** |  |

**Project summary (recommended maximum 1 page – additional as required)**

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| Briefly describe the project objectives, activities and anticipated outcomes. Indicate how the project is aligned with ocean sustainability and the research priorities in the [IMBeR Science Plan](http://imber.info/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/IMBeR-Science-Plan-and-Implementation-Strategy-2017.pdf) and how it aligns with the mandate of the [Ocean Frontier Institute (OFI)](https://oceanfrontierinstitute.com/about-ofi/strategic-framework). |

**OFI Researcher/University commitment of co-funding**

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| Provide a summary of proposed co-funding, including potential sources and amounts (by fiscal year), broken down by cash contributions and in-kind costs (contributions). IMBeR-OGEN studentships are based on a funding formula of $50,000 per student per year over 3 years. The OFI Researcher/University required commitment of co-funding (cash from research funds) is $12,500 per student per year. This is a “top-up” and is in addition to funds provided by DFO and OGEN. Supervisors and students are responsible for all costs beyond the 3-year scholarship.  NOTE: This specific funding opportunity is for 3 years. Please provide additional information regarding funding if the term extends beyond 3 years. |

**Student recruitment and selection**

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| Provide a summary of the desired skill sets and disciplinary background of the student, how “excellence” will be determined, and how they will be recruited (including proposed timelines and if possible, a draft advertisement). The recruitment process must be open and public. Describe how Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) will be addressed in the student selection process. These details will be used by OGEN and IMBeR for recruitment advertisement purposes. |

**Additional information**

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| Include any additional information (not included in the above) that will assist in the review of the EoI. |

**ANNEX - Selection Criteria**

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| Selection Criteria | Points |
| Project summary   * The project demonstrates scientific excellence * Project is well defined with all aspects presented logically * Objectives, activities and outcomes are clearly stated * The project is a research priority for IMBeR * The project clearly demonstrates how it will advance global ocean sustainability * The project will progress the IMBeR Science Plan * The project is well aligned with the mandate of OFI | 40 |
| University researcher/principal investigator   * CV clearly indicates experience in pertinent research areas identified by the partners * Indicates a track record of funding * List of relevant publications | 25 |
| Researcher commitment of co-funding   * Proposed co-funding, including potential sources and amounts is aligned with the funding model | 20 |
| Student selection and recruitment   * Desired skills set for students are appropriate for the project * “Excellence” is clearly defined * Approach to recruitment is well outlined * A documented approach to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) has been included | 15 |
| **TOTAL** | **100** |