



## ANNOUNCEMENT: 2023 NF-POGO Visiting Fellowship for Shipboard Training on an Atlantic Meridional Transect (AMT) Cruise

The Partnership for Observation of the Global Ocean (POGO) announces a Nippon Foundation-funded Fellowship for on-board training on an Atlantic Meridional Transect (AMT) Cruise in partnership with Plymouth Marine Laboratory (PML) and the National Oceanography Centre (NOC) in the UK. One berth has been reserved on the next AMT cruise (AMT-30) for the selected candidate. The programme is designed to promote training and capacity development leading towards a global observation scheme for the oceans.

### *Who can apply?*

This fellowship program is open to early career scientists, technicians, postgraduate students (PhD or MSc) and Post-doctoral Fellows involved in oceanographic work at centres in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

### *What does the fellowship offer?*

The selected candidate will have the opportunity to visit either Plymouth Marine Laboratory (PML) or the National Oceanography Centre (NOC) in the UK, for one month prior to the start of the cruise to participate in cruise preparation and planning; to go on the cruise (21<sup>st</sup> February to 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023) and help make hydrological, bio-optical and/or ecological observations; and after the cruise to spend approximately one additional month at PML or NOC, learning to analyse the results statistically and interpret them.

The successful candidate will focus on **one of the areas of work** specified below, in which he or she should have a particular scientific interest:

Lead PI	Host institution	Research area
Dr. Sari Giering (s.giering@noc.ac.uk)	National Oceanography Centre (NOC), Southampton	Particles in the ocean – the use of in situ camera systems and state-of-the-art sampling tools for estimating ocean carbon storage via zooplankton and sinking particles
Dr. Glen Tarran (gat@pml.ac.uk)	Plymouth Marine Laboratory (PML)	Microbial diversity of the Atlantic Ocean using Analytical Flow Cytometry.
Dr. Gavin Tilstone (ghti@pml.ac.uk)	Plymouth Marine Laboratory (PML)	Bio-optical characterisation of phytoplankton size class absorption and photosynthetic properties for primary production model development

These topics align with the research interests of the proposed Principal Investigators from PML and NOC, one of which will be the supervisor of the Fellow during the training period.



## Atlantic Meridional Transect

**Total period of Fellowship:** ~15<sup>th</sup> January to 29<sup>th</sup> April 2023. Candidates should be available to participate for the full period.

### The AMT Programme

The Atlantic Meridional Transect (AMT) programme ([www.amt-uk.org](http://www.amt-uk.org)) began in 1995, utilising the passage of the RRS James Clark Ross through the Atlantic Ocean between the UK and the Falkland Islands (50°N to 52°S, a distance of over 13,500 km) southwards in September and northwards in April each year. The transect crosses a range of ecosystems from sub-polar to tropical, and from eutrophic shelf seas and upwelling systems to oligotrophic mid-ocean gyres. The scientific aims included an assessment of mesoscale to basin-scale phytoplankton processes, the functional interpretation of bio-optical signatures and the seasonal, regional and latitudinal variations in mesozooplankton dynamics. The programme provided a platform for international scientific collaboration, including the calibration and validation of SeaWiFS measurements and products. The measurements of hydrographic and bio-optical properties, plankton community structure and primary production completed on the first 12 transects (1995-2000) represent the most coherent set of repeated biogeochemical observations over ocean-basin scales. This unique dataset has led to several important discoveries concerning the identification of oceanic provinces, validation of ocean colour algorithms, documentation of distributions of picoplankton, identification of new regional sinks of pCO<sub>2</sub> and quantification of variability in rates of primary production and respiration.

In 2002, the programme restarted (2002-2006) and broadened, to address a suite of cross-disciplinary research questions concerning ocean plankton ecology and biogeochemistry and their links to atmospheric processes. The objectives included the determination of 1) how the structure, functional properties and trophic status of the major planktonic ecosystems vary in space and time; 2) how physical processes control the rates of nutrient supply, including dissolved organic matter, to the planktonic ecosystem; and 3) how atmosphere-ocean exchange and photodegradation influence the formation and fate of organic matter.

Between 1995 and 2019, the programme has included 29 research cruises, involving 289 scientists from 30 countries, contributing to over 370 refereed publications and 75 PhD theses. AMT continues to contribute to science and policy development including the social and economic understanding of the marine environment and services it delivers. This unique spatially extensive decadal dataset continues to be deposited and made available to the wider community through the British Oceanographic Data Centre ([www.bodc.ac.uk](http://www.bodc.ac.uk)).

AMT-30 will take place in February-March 2023 between the Falkland Islands and Southampton, UK, as part of a long-term multi-disciplinary ocean observation programme, a platform for national and international scientific collaboration, a training arena for the next generation of oceanographers and an ideal facility for validation of novel technology.



## Atlantic Meridional Transect

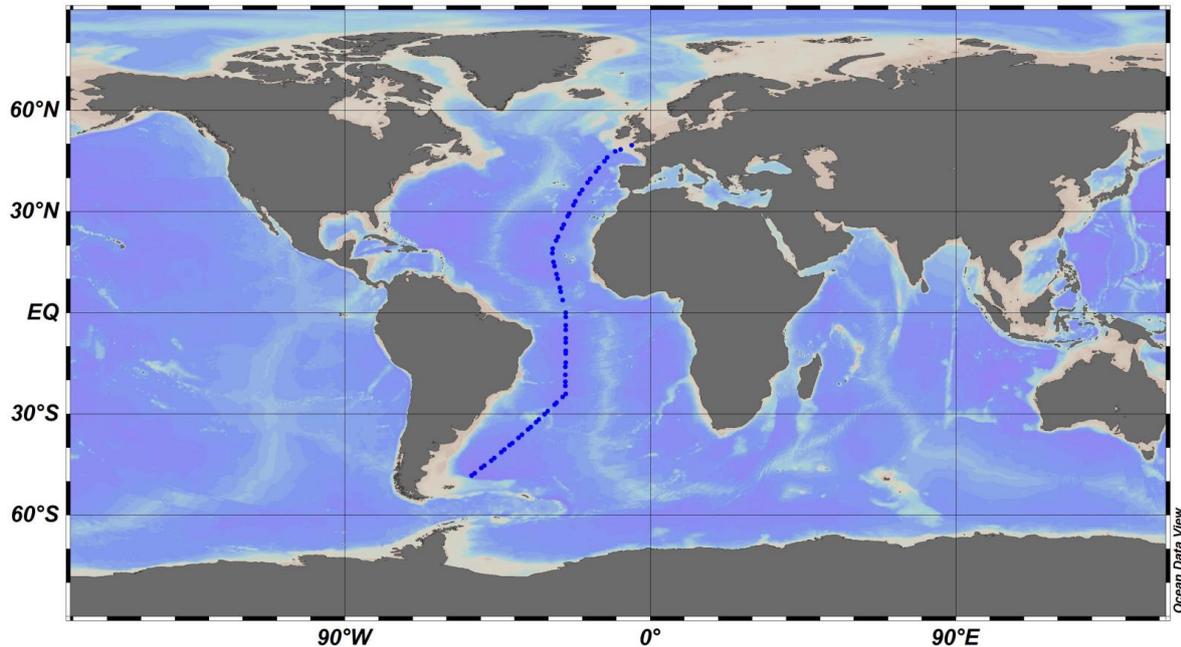


Fig. 1: Cruise track of AMT 28. Figure credits: British Oceanographic Data Centre.

### What are the terms?

1. The fellowship will provide the costs of a round-trip ticket between the home institute of the trainee and the UK; subsistence allowance for up to two months' stay in the UK depending on the particulars of the proposed training (normally for one month before the cruise and one month after the cruise); the flight to the Falkland Islands; accommodation in the Falkland Islands (prior to joining the ship, if required); seafaring medical and sea survival course.
2. The fellow (or his/her institute) will bear all expenses incurred by the fellow in his/her own nation (domestic travel, visa costs, personal insurance etc.). The cruise budget will cover the ship messing fee and the host institute (PML or NOC) will waive any bench fees that they may normally charge trainees.
3. POGO assumes no responsibility for compensation in the event of sickness, accident, death or disability of a Fellowship holder, nor does it arrange for insurance of a trainee or reimburse premiums paid therefore. It is the responsibility of the trainee to arrange travel and medical insurance for the duration of the fellowship.
4. The trainees are not considered agents or members of the staff of POGO, and shall not be entitled to any privileges, immunities, compensation or reimbursements, except as otherwise provided herein, nor are the trainees authorised to commit POGO to any expenditure or other obligation.
5. The trainee and the supervisors at the parent and host institutes are required to provide a short progress report at the end of the training period, to evaluate the success of the fellowship programme.



## Review Process

Representatives from POGO and AMT will review the applications. In their decision-making, the Selection Committee will consider the following points:

1. Quality of the application;
2. Curriculum of the applicant;
3. Evidence that the training will lead to capacity-building with potential lasting impact on regional observations.

## How does one apply?

The applicant needs to e-mail one of the PIs listed above with a **short CV and a statement of interest** outlining their current research and what they hope to gain from the training. They may also be encouraged to submit a project outline to the prospective supervisor. Although the area of work is well defined, there may be some flexibility in the project definition, which can be negotiated by e-mail between the applicant and the supervisor prior to submitting the application. Based on the information submitted by the applicant, the PI will decide if their profile is suitable for the project, and if so will issue an acceptance letter.

**Important note: the prospective supervisor should be contacted as soon as possible, and no later than Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2022**, to allow sufficient time for the supervisor to consider the application before the submission deadline.

Only when the acceptance letter has been obtained from the prospective host supervisor can the application be submitted. Fellowship applicants should complete and submit the electronic **application form** at the Ocean Training Partnership web portal (<http://www.oceantrainingpartnership.org/AMT2023>), together with a **recommendation letter from the parent supervisor** and a **letter of acceptance from the prospective host supervisor**.

Please note that the application form includes sections on the applicant's background and training requirements, capacity building intentions, a summary CV, and a fellowship proposal. **In case of unstable internet connections, we recommend preparing this text in an offline document, then copy-pasting into the online form.**

If short-listed, the candidate may be asked to undergo an informal telephone/video conferencing interview.

**Applications and recommendation letters should be written in English and letters submitted/uploaded in pdf format.** It is recommended that descriptive sections be limited to about 100 - 150 words. Please use font sizes of 10 pt or larger. **Only applications that are complete in all respects will be considered for the Fellowship.**

**Deadline:** The deadline for applications for the 2023 fellowship is **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022**. **All applicants will be informed of the decision within one month of the deadline.**