



Coastal Futures Conference 2025

Coastal Futures Bursary

[Apply here](#)

29 & 30 January 2025 | The Royal Geographical Society, London & online

 CMS@coastms.co.uk  www.coastal-futures.net  Ocean and Coastal Futures  @CF_conf



Coastal Futures Bursary

Ocean and Coastal Futures are pleased to announce the launch of our second *Coastal Futures* Bursary, continuing our commitment to enhancing diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging.

This bursary is intended to support young people aged 18 to 25 years old, who are currently underrepresented in the marine and coastal sector and/or face financial barriers to attending. Individuals do not have to be working or studying in the sector currently but must reside in the UK.

Individuals from these underrepresented groups are particularly encouraged to apply for the bursary:

- you are a person of colour
- you have a physical disability that impacts your work or social activities
- you have a cognitive, learning, communication or sensory impairment
- you have been granted refugee status in the UK
- you have received free school meals, 16-19 Bursary or Pupil Premium
- you are the first generation of your family to go to university
- you entered university at undergraduate level from a care background
- you are a young carer

Please note this list is not exhaustive, and we encourage individuals to apply who have experienced barriers accessing the marine and coastal sector outside of those mentioned above.

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What's included in the Coastal Futures Bursary

There are twelve bursaries available, to attend the conference either in-person or online.

Six in-person bursaries will include:

- In-person tickets to Coastal Futures 2025 on January 29th and 30th
- Two nights in accessible accommodation close to the venue (if a carer is required, we can accommodate them too)
- Return travel to London

Six online bursaries will include:

- Online tickets to Coastal Futures 2025 on January 29th and 30th

Applications will close on the 8th November 2024. Offers of a bursary will be made by the 25th November 2024.

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About the Conference

We are delighted to offer bursary opportunities for the 32nd edition of the UK's premier multi-disciplinary ocean conference. The programme will include six sessions across two days, covering the major themes in the estuarine, coastal and marine sectors with high-level speakers from industry, academia, NGOs, local community groups, government and advisory bodies.

Accessibility and Inclusivity:

- The venue is wheelchair accessible.
- There will be wheelchair spaces and an induction loop available.
- Registered assistance dogs are welcome.
- An accessible toilet is available.
- There will be numerous breaks provided.
- There will be quiet spaces available throughout.
- There will be optional pre-scheduled networking opportunities.
- In-person bursary recipients will be connected before the event.
- A member of staff will be on-hand to support before and during the event.
- Pre-conference notes will be provided on what to expect.

If you have any questions regarding the bursary, or if there is anything we can do to aid your accessibility or support needs throughout the application process, please get in touch with Rosie via email: rosie@coastms.co.uk

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About your application

- If you need any help with your application or would prefer to submit a video instead of a written application, please get in touch.
- We want to offer bursaries to a broad spread of individuals, so applications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Please use Q7 in the short application form to explain why this bursary will make a difference to you.
- The deadline for applying for the bursary is 8th November 2024 and bursaries will be awarded by the 25th November 2024.
- Successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified via email.
- While we don't provide feedback for unsuccessful applicants as standard, please get in touch if you require this information.

2024 Bursary Testimonials

"Thanks again, I really enjoyed the conference! I felt really lucky to be a part of it"

"I wanted to say thank you so much for this opportunity! It was a wonderful experience and I gained a lot of knowledge. It was also a great networking opportunity as well"

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Coastal Futures 2025: The path to 2030

2030: The date is etched across international goals, government policies, and legal targets. The UK has a new government, and this parliamentary term will take the country to the brink of 2030.

Politicians, NGOs, industry, and government agencies, all have 2030 fixed firmly in their sights as the year when the world should have achieved many of the most important aims and ambitions of our time.

What are these targets, why do they matter and whose responsibility are they?

- We are now halfway through the '**UN Decade of Ocean Science**' and '**UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration**'.
- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations members in 2015, created 17 world **Sustainable Development Goals** to be achieved by 2030.
- **OSPAR's 16 contracting parties** have signed up to the North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy 2030. It sets out the objectives to tackle the challenges facing the ocean: biodiversity loss, pollution, and climate change.
- The UK has a target to reach **50GW of offshore wind capacity** by 2030, a step towards achieving **net-zero**.
- The **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework** commits 196 countries to halting and reversing nature loss by 2030. The agreement's 23 targets include a global target to conserve at least 30% of the world's ocean by 2030 ("**30x30**").
- Under the **Paris climate agreement**, the UK needs to reduce its emissions by 68% by 2030 compared with 1990 levels.
- The EU has adopted a new '**Nature Restoration Law**'. Member States will put in place restoration measures in at least 20% of the EU's sea areas by 2030.

There are just five years until 2030. Is the UK and the world on track to reach these ambitions?

How can we achieve the transition to a low-carbon, nature-positive and sustainable world in a fair and just way?

Coastal Futures 2025 sets out to answer these questions and cover the major themes in the estuarine, coastal and marine sectors. Across six sessions over two days, the conference aims to challenge thinking and move debate forward in an informative and collaborative way.

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