



## MSc by Research Scholarship Outdoor Microfibre Consortium (OMC)

[The School of Design](#) is pleased to offer a MSc by Research scholarship starting in September 2019. This scholarship is focused on microfibre pollution from textile and clothing.

### Background

There is growing interest in the impact of plastics and microfibre on the environment with a particular focus on how ocean plastics affect marine eco-systems. It has been suggested that the domestic laundry of clothing could contribute up to 35% of the microfibres in the ocean.

Although the existing knowledge about the scale and scope of microfibres pollution from textiles is limited, the School of Design is now becoming recognised as a major centre for research into textiles and microfibre research. Over the past 12 months the School of Design has been advising and informing the clothing and textile industry, media, NGOs and government about our latest findings and research on microfibres released from textiles.

Most of the current microfibre research activities at the School have been funded by the Outdoor Microfibre Consortium. Through this funding the School of Design has developed a reliable and robust testing method for quantifying microfibre release from textiles during the laundry process; a method that is likely to be adopted by the industry as the standard approach for the quantification of microfibre release.

As a direct result of the successes achieved through this collaboration, further funding has been awarded to the School of Design in the form of a Scholarship for a Master of Science by Research (MSc) opportunity. This is a postgraduate qualification achieved through 12 months of research that leads to the creation of Masters research thesis. The Scholarship provides funding for university fees and a generous student bursary.

### Research project objectives

This aim of the research associated with the Scholarship is to further develop the understanding and knowledge about the mechanisms that influence the release of microfibres from clothing fabrics during domestic laundry processes. There will be a particular focus on understanding the influence of textile factors such as material and fibre type, yarn and fabric specifications and the potential impact of fabric ageing during the lifetime of the garment. It is hoped that the Scholarship research will also help to characterise the microfibre release in terms of size, shape and composition of materials removed from the test fabrics.

The project is aspirational in its objectives, as well as being innovative in its approach. Beyond the creation of the thesis, the project intends to provide information and knowledge that has practical application for industry, policy makers and consumers.

Throughout the duration of the project the successful candidate will be supported by an experience supervision team within the School of Design, along with the opportunity to work with industry.

### **Entry requirements**

The successful applicant will need to have good textile science knowledge and some experience of textile testing, as well as a robust attitude to experimental research. Applicants will require a minimum of a 2.1 Hons Degree (or equivalent) in a subject closely related to Textiles, Clothing, Fashion, Sustainability or Environmental Science.

Applicants for whom English is not their first language are required to provide an IELTS score of 6.5 overall with no less than 6.0 in any skill area, or equivalent.

### **Financial award**

The OMC scholarship provides UK applicants with tuition fees (£4,400) and a student bursary (£14,500) for one year for the completion of the MSc master of science by research project. The scholarship also has a travel budget to support possible European meeting(s) and dissemination activities that align with the project aim and objectives.

International candidates are eligible to apply. An international award holder will be required to self-fund the difference in fees between the home fee rate of £4,400 (2018/19) covered by the scholarship and the international fee rate of £19,500 (2018/19).

### **How to apply**

To apply, please submit your CV, a copy of your academic degree documents and a personal statement (one side of A4) to Dr. Mark Sumner ([M.P.Sumner@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:M.P.Sumner@leeds.ac.uk)). The closing date for applications is 05/01/2019.