

# CAPOD Funding Report

Please complete this report and submit by email to your authorising signature from your School/Unit and [capod@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:capod@st-andrews.ac.uk)

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|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Event /Course Title | British Ecology Society Annual General Meeting 2018 |
| Date of event       | 15-19/12/2018                                       |

## 1. Brief description of Event (50-100 words):

I received the funding to attend an Early Careers day before the main event of the British Ecology Society (BES) Annual General Meeting 2018. The Careers day was to assist me in making the transition from a PhD student to a Postdoc (or other preferred option). This event was run by the BES careers team, and linked with the annual conference of about 1500 delegates from all different field within ecology.

## 2. What were the benefits of attending and what did you gain from the experience in terms of transferable skills and knowledge.

One of the main benefits was that I heard from lots of different people who went from a PhD in ecology to lots of different roles. One of the main aims of this workshop was to help us see all our options. I learnt about publishing, teaching focused lectureships and working for NGOs as alternative options to Postdocs. A panel discussion of different career representatives gave me a broad overview of how to aim for these different career options, and what skills are transferrable between roles. There was also a session on grant writing, where I received tips on writing successful applications.

One of the most useful transferable skills that we developed during the careers workshop was networking. This was especially useful because the workshop was before a main conference. We undertook various fun activities such as trying out stock networking ice-breakers and meeting the other students. The other skill we worked on was communication. In groups we had to write a short radio piece on one of the group member's research. We then read this out to the rest of the attendees, and received feedback from professional communicators.

## 3. What actions will you be taking as a result of attending or by making new networking contacts.

I will always include a schematic diagram of illustration of my research proposal on the first page of any gran application, because this is very useful for reviewers. I will also make sure that in an interview I explicitly state how the position fits in with my own future development as well as how I fit the role.

## 4. Can you share any additional resources produced in connection with the event (e.g. feedback from participants, training resources, website links, and additional materials.

We were suggested a book called [What Colour is my Parachute](#) by Richard Bolles as a good book for deciding on what is the right career

**5. Tips/experience learned from the event**

- Keep language in grant applications simple
- Include informative images wherever possible
- Don't get hung up in the details when communicating to general audiences
- Don't worry overly about hitting all the criteria of job applications

**6. Any additional comments or information regarding the event**

Nope.