CAPOD funding report for ECSA 55 conference and workshops

This meeting was attended in September 2015 and incorporated an interdisciplinary conference with student workshops run by the Estuarine Coastal Sciences Association (ECSA). This conference was co-funded by Elsevier which lead to high quality workshops associated with publishing in academic journals, reviewing in these journals as well as offering the opportunity to speak to Elsevier personnel, various editors, and also the editors-in-chief of two of Elsevier’s journals – Estuarine Coastal Shelf Science (ECSS) and Ocean and Coastal Management. Through the aid of funding from CAPOD, I was able to attend this meeting to enhance my skills as a completing PhD student and early career researcher. Additionally networking events were organised which offered an interesting chance to progress my career in a relaxed setting by facilitating interactions with experienced researchers. This is another key skill gained through attendance at this event – learning how to network and interact with other scientists in a relaxed setting.

Workshops attended at this even that were of particular importance were those on publishing, and those on reviewing in academic journals. I am a final year student and having just submitted my thesis prior to examination I am looking to publish various chapters and results. Having had minimal experience at doing this due to the nature of my project and the time constraints involved, now is the only time I have had available to start to collate information into publications. Of particular interest about the publishing workshop is that it was conducted by the editor-in-chief of ECSS, a journal in which I am likely to publish my research. This workshop offered an interesting opportunity to learn about the do’s and don’ts of publishing, how to go about it, and what to expect. Additionally, it offered an interactive medium to ask the necessary questions about publishing, but also allowed me to ask and learn about what is expected for this particular journal.

The workshop on reviewing in academic journals was also of great benefit. Having recently been asked by an editor to review a paper, I was unsure of what was expected and how to do this. This workshop focussed on this information and also how to go about it, giving me the confidence to agree to review more papers in the future, particularly as this is an important skill for any academic. I have no doubt that these new found skills will be utilised more frequently in the future, particularly with the publication of more papers leading to more people asking me to review in scientific journals. Overall, through funding from CAPOD, attendance at this workshop has been extremely beneficial, leading to the development of transferable skills such as publishing, reviewing and how to effectively network, all of which will be utilised in my future career.