1. Brief description of Event (50-100 words): I attended a number of short courses at EGU 2016 to both develop my generic and specialist skills. At the start of the week I attend short courses on:

1. The ins and outs of open access publishing
2. The communicating geoscientist
3. Finding funding: how to apply for a research grant

At the end of the week I took part in 2 short courses to develop new specialist skills these focused on the new Google Earth Engine and Advanced analytical techniques for organic matter.

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

The 3 short courses at the start of the week gave me generic skills training in the context of being a geoscientist. I gained a greater understanding of publishing in open access journals an important skill for any PhD students funded by a research council. The second course of the week focused on communicating geoscience research to the general public and gave me tips on how to simplify presentation to make the accessible. The last generic skills course provided tips and tricks to be successful when applying for funding.

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

I am currently in the process of publishing a journal in an EGU open access journal; the tips provided in the short course are already being implemented into this process with special focus on producing a good cover letter. The second course instructed us to loose jargon and that pictures and diagrams a far better at communicating complex data, I will be using this when I communicate my research to a non-specialised audience in the future. The tips and tricks for getting funding course was useful the it did not provide any new insight it did help confirm that what I have been doing is correct. All these generic skills will be useful throughout my future career in academia or industry.

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).

Course material i.e. slides will come available in the coming weeks which I am happy to pass onto colleagues in the School of Geography & Geosciences or wider throughout the University.

6. Tips/experience learned from the event

Top Tips (1 from each course)

1. Don’t use jargon & use pictures/diagrams when presenting to non-specialist audience
2. Spend time on the covering letter for journal submissions it is an important tool to engage an editor.
3. Keep funding applications simple and follow a logical progression from why you need the funding to how you will use it. Follow instruction especially word/page counts you don’t want to annoy the funder.