CAPOD Funding Report

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<tr>
<th>Event /Course Title</th>
<th>European Geosciences Union General Assembly 2017</th>
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<td>23-28 April 2017</td>
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1. Brief description of Event (50-100 words):

The EGU General Assembly is the biggest European conference in my field of study (geology). It takes place annually in Vienna, Austria, and this year there were over 14,000 attendees from 107 different countries. The majority of material was presented at talks and poster sessions, and interactive touchscreen PICO sessions. Besides these, there were panel debates, short films, stalls, social events and specialist workshops.

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

I attended a range of talks and events within the scope of geoscience, which I found really interesting as a wider range of topics were covered at the conference than are included in my degree. Our department at St Andrews tends to specialise in geochemistry. EGU presented a fantastic opportunity to explore other avenues such as geodynamic modelling. My horizons were definitely broadened as a result of attending and I discovered whole fields which I had never investigated before. I also took the opportunity to attend specialist seminars on topics of particular interest to me, deepening my knowledge of topics such as planetary tectonics and magma evolution.

I met a number of researchers who are prominent in my field of interest, including Professor Jim Head and Dr Anne Davaille. It was an absolute privilege to get to sit down with them, discuss my work and receive their input.

I also attended some skills-based workshops in topics such as academic publishing, which I found very enlightening and helpful.

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

I have already been in email conversation with Luke Griffiths, a PhD student at Strasbourg University who I met at my poster session at EGU. He is using similar techniques to me but in a different scientific context, and so far I have learned a lot from his work and we are looking for ways to adapt some of his techniques to my data.
Dave Healy, the developer of the specialist software I used in my project, was also at the conference and we met and discussed ways in which the software could be improved in the future to make it more useful for the type of work I have been doing. I intend to stay in touch with him as this process proceeds.

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.

A link to the specialist software I used, the developer of which I met at EGU: https://uk.mathworks.com/matlabcentral/fileexchange/58860-davehealy-aberdeen-fracpaq

5. Tips/experience learned from the event

I learned a lot about how to present a talk (and how not to present a talk). For example, putting your name on the first slide is all well and good, but most speakers flick past the title slide quite quickly. I now believe that it is important to have your name, institution and email address on the final slide which you have up while taking questions.

I also gained valuable experience in getting the most out of a conference. It pays to spend time each night reading the programme for the following day, to make sure you don’t miss anything you’re really interested in. Things do tend to overrun by a few minutes and it takes time to get across the venue, which you need to keep in mind when attending consecutive talks. And it’s worth attending some random talks on subjects you’ve never heard of, because you never know when something might spark an idea or an interest.

I was also pleasantly surprised by how approachable most of the academics I spoke to were, and how rewarding it was to speak to them about their work. I found that showing enthusiasm almost invariably stimulated enthusiasm in return.

6. Any additional comments or information regarding the event

I had a fantastic time at EGU, learned a lot and gained a lot of valuable experience. I would highly recommend to other geoscience students that they attend.