

Postgraduate student bursary reports

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The European Geoscience Union (EGU) general assembly took place in Vienna, Austria between the 19th - 24th April 2009.

The EGU meeting is one of the largest geoscience conferences held annually, bringing ~9,000 people from many scientific communities together. As a PhD student I found the size of the conference slightly overwhelming but it also made it very interesting. Being surrounded by scientists from so many fields widened my knowledge from just my own project area of building stone weathering. I was able to listen to talks in sessions on the critical zone through to structures of the Alpine orogen, whilst also attending sessions closely linked to my own topic. Listening to talks on this broad spectrum of research areas helped me to look at my own work and critically evaluate it.

I was given the opportunity for an oral presentation of results of my research within the session “Geomicrobiology: geochemical and molecular interactions between microbes, minerals and metals”. This was a great chance to state my ideas to a wide community of professionals and receive feedback about the project which I have undertaken. Within this session the talks were very varied, ranging from waste storage cells to environmental reactions transport models, but all were highly informative.

I wish to thank the Mineralogical Society for their support without which I would not have had the opportunity to attend an excellent meeting.

