

Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland
Postgraduate Student Bursary Report 2011

Rachael Ellen

School of Geographical and Earth Sciences, University of Glasgow

The European Geosciences Union (EGU) is held in Vienna, Austria every year and attracts around 10,000 scientists, specializing in various geoscience fields from all over the world. This year, the conference was held from 3rd to 8th of April and with great thanks to the support of the Mineralogical Society, I was lucky enough to attend this major conference.



Having never been to such a large conference before, I was overwhelmed by the size of the venue! Not only were there many bustling conference rooms available for talks and posters, but also in the main body of the conference hall were numerous stalls with information on careers, research facilities, institutes and many more that really made me appreciate just how much I could learn from this conference.

As my PhD research combines structural geology with igneous petrology by studying the internal structure of faults in basalt, I was particularly interested in the sessions ‘Tectonics and Structural Geology’ and ‘Geochemistry, Mineralogy, Petrology and Volcanology’. As these sessions provided such a wealth of information, I learned a great deal about what other scientists within my field are doing and was also able to talk to others about my own research. Being in the 2nd year of my PhD, this was extremely beneficial as I was inspired by others’ work, and encouraged by feedback that I received on my presentation in the ‘Fault zone structure, mechanics and evolution in nature and laboratory’ session. The contacts that I have made from attending this conference are invaluable, and I truly have been inspired by my experience at EGU.

Once again, I am indebted to the Mineralogical Society their support. I am very grateful to them for making my attendance to EGU, and the presentation of my work to an international audience, possible.