

EGU 2015 – Anna Bidgood

The EGU 2015 provided me with many firsts in my academic career and in my life. It was my first visit to Vienna, my first major conference, my first poster and my first time in a dumpster! I presented a poster of my master's project in the session 'Contributions to metamorphic petrology' on the first day of the conference. However, I spent most of the morning searching for my lost poster which had been 'tidied' away by the cleaners and ended up in the rather large skip, along with many other identical looking poster tubes. After this stressful search, I was able to finally put up my poster and enjoy the conference. The poster session itself, although seemingly chaotic, went smoothly and I could barely talk by the end of the day! I received a lot of feedback and interesting discussion about further directions I could potentially take my project.

During the week I was able to pursue different topics that were useful to my master's project, my PhD or just plain interesting. Particularly useful to me was the workshop on thermodynamic modelling. I also picked up some skills that only come with practice and experience, like how to assess the quality of someone's research, their approach to modelling and a good poster design!

All in all, I had a memorable experience and will certainly be attending conferences in the future! I would like to thank MSG for supporting me in this and Clare Warren for sorting out logistics, helping me with the poster disaster and taking me under her wing! I would also like to thank my supervisors Dave Waters and Nick Gardiner, for all of their help this past year.