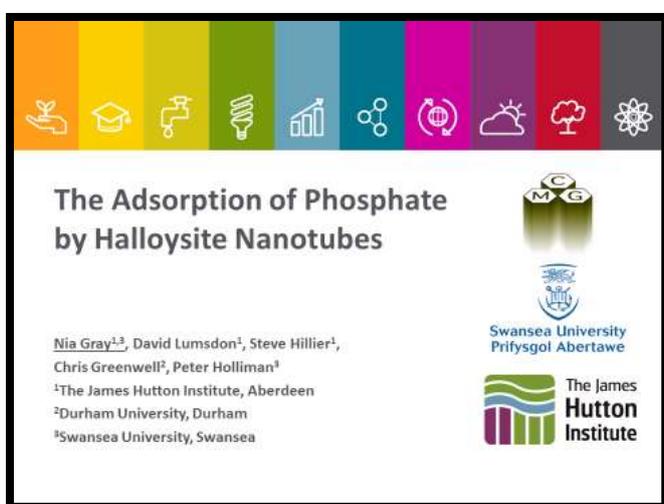


## Clay Minerals Group Bursary to Attend the 16<sup>th</sup> International Clay Conference: Granada 17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> July 2017

**Nia Gray, 1<sup>st</sup> year PhD student from The James Hutton Institute, Aberdeen and Swansea University.**

I am extremely grateful to the CMG for supporting my attendance of the ICC in Granada and the pre-conference AIPEA School for Young Scientists (ASYS) on Computational Modelling in Clay Mineralogy.

The ICC conferences occur every four years and this year the conference was held in the beautiful Spanish city of Granada. The conference brought together over 700 scientists who presented over 8 parallel oral sessions and poster slots. It was an extremely diverse meeting which covered a wide range of topics in the fields of mineralogy, geology and geochemistry, environment and soils, interactions between clays and organic molecules and organisms, ceramics, zeolites and nanomaterials and clay technology.



I presented the initial findings of my PhD as an oral presentation during the session on natural and synthetic nanotubes. This was not only a great opportunity to gain feedback from other scientists in the field but also to practice and gain confidence in public speaking. I found the ASYS workshop incredibly useful and I am hoping to apply some of the methods demonstrated at the workshop to my PhD work.

I benefited from the conference by attending the sessions and plenary talks which has given me plenty of thought and

ideas for my PhD. I also enjoyed meeting and getting to know other delegates during the poster sessions and coffee breaks. It was fantastic to be able to visit the Alhambra as part of the conference, it was a truly spectacular attraction.

Overall the conference and workshop were a great opportunity for both knowledge exchange and professional development and I am incredibly grateful to the CMG group for their grant which helped me to attend both.

