

**What is the nature of a PhD?  
BSG Post-Graduate Research Training Workshop in Windsor 2013**

These four days of workshop were very interesting both from a professional and human point of view.

After a welcome tea, the workshop began with a non trivial question: "what is the nature of a PhD?". It made us think about the role of PhD students in the research and the role of a PhD project for us, what we are asked to do and why we searched for a PhD.

Thanks to the organizers Tom Coulthard, Brian Whalley, Paul Farres, Tony Parsons and David Favis-Mortlock, we learnt how to deal with a research project, how to develop it and how to organize our work to finish it in three years. The course focused on understanding which are the right questions to ask yourself and which is the most appropriate time to do it. The workshop focused also on modeling phenomena, how to chose the right model to represent, reproduce and quantify the studied phenomenon, considering that the ground-truthing and the validation through fieldwork are fundamental.

I liked working in small groups on these themes. This made us know each other, how we work and organize the work; so we were able to produce a project or a presentation starting from different ideas and getting to a more original product than one produced by one person only.

What I appreciated of the workshop is that it was a great occasion to know other Young Geomorphologists at the 1<sup>st</sup> year of PhD like me, with the same enthusiasm and doubts, and with whom I will keep in touch. I recommend the future Young Geomorphologists to take advantage on this workshop as an opportunity to understand how to deal with and develop a research project and to know other researchers.

Finally, I would like to thank the International Association of Geomorphology very much for giving me the opportunity to attend this workshop by awarding me one of the 2013 grants.

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