

BSG Post-Graduate Training Workshop

Windsor, UK, 3-6 December 2018

Report on the BSG Post-Graduate Training Workshop 2018

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Every year, the British Society for Geomorphology organizes a workshop, especially dedicated to the first year PhD students.

The workshop has been taken place in the wonderful Windsor Great Park, where the Cumberland Lodge gives you the possibility to appreciate the real English style. In fact, the Cumberland Lodge offers to you pretty bedrooms, generous meals and a lot of tea. The place creates an ideal setting for international meetings and workshops.



The Cow Pond near the Lodge

It is easy meeting other PhD students at the Egham station (if you travel by train), from where you must take a taxi to arrive at the Cumberland Lodge. Sharing a taxi is a perfect “ice-breaker” and it is easy starting conversation with other students.

The Mews is the place where all talks took part: we start with a self-presentation to introduce someone of which you have interviewed. I and the other Italian student, Lidia, were the only second-year PhD students, but even if the workshop is dedicated to the first year PhD student, the topics are so broad that even at the beginning of your second year you will deal with the typical PhD problems and doubts.

One of them, for example, is the role of social media and their resources: I have always considered Twitter, Facebook and so on only to keep in touch my family and friends, but I change my opinion about it. In fact, social media can improve your research project increasing its impact.

The other talks concern on the Philosophy of Science (not very easy, but very absorbing), which I really appreciated because I re-interpreted old philosophical issue from another point of view.

The most remarkable thing is the possibility of public speaking: I have prepared two talks about my PhD project, one presented to all attendees and the other one to a small group, giving you suggestions or asking questions. Moreover, a third talk has been prepared with other students: it is a great experience in which you have to present a research project about a topic far from your area of interest and within only two hours. It is a very formative experience in which you can understand how to



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write a research project, which aspect you have to consider, how to identify the critical findings and their resolution and how to pay attention to the economic resources.

Besides the public speaking, you have also the opportunity of knowing the PhD experiences of the Post-doctoral researchers, which give you precious advice and report their personal challenges and opportunities, also considering the mental stress and health connecting problems.

Another fundamental topic is the importance of the publications and listening the point of view of an editor (i.e. Professor Stuart) give you the idea of what is a review and, above all, how to pass the reviews.

Anyway, the three-day workshop gives you a general knowledge about the PhD, its opportunities and difficulties. Also, you can discover that your problems could be the same as the other students, and you can find the solution!

I really recommend this fantastic experience to all my “Geomorphology colleagues”: take part not only during your first year but consider it also during the second year.