



BSG Post-Graduate Training Workshop

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Report on the BSG Post-Graduate Training Workshop 2021

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A year after the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the BSG Windsor Postgraduate Workshop took again place from 6th to 9th December in the spectacular residence of Cumberland Lodge, Windsor Great Park. Despite several cancellations and the increasing restrictions for travelling, nine young geomorphologists eventually gathered in this perfect English framework in front of a cup of tea (the first of many more!). Marin and I were the only students travelling from Europe and, after two long days spent isolated in self-quarantine, we finally felt warmly welcomed in the elegant, Christmasy lounges and rooms of the royal estate.



After a brief historical introduction on when and how Cumberland Lodge became an educational foundation, we started our lectures diving into philosophical issues about the objectivity of observations and the meanings that science can take. Our intense first day ended with a short "ice-breaking" presentation on our PhD projects, which allowed us to have a glimpse of each other's interests and research fields.

Over the next few days, we attended several lectures in the Mews, a royal stable block now reconverted in a conference building. There, we discussed the British evaluation system for researchers and teachers (REF/TEF) and the possible non-academic career paths for geomorphologists. We were also given tips and tricks for publications, for enhancing the online presence through social media for disseminating our work or getting in touch with the researcher community, and, in the end, for overcoming struggles and difficulties which always arise during a PhD. The brief walk back to the Main Lodge in the cold, misty air marked our breaks between each session and let us appreciate the generous meals or the hot cups of tea and coffee.

Apart from all the valuable lessons and practical exercises, I particularly liked the discussions and the presentations we gave in front of every attendee, which was very formative in many ways. Even the fear of being judged and the different language in which you need to give the talk are easily overcome in such a friendly climate, while the comments or the questions help you in gaining confidence and improving your work. In addition to the single talks, we were often split into groups and asked to discuss a geological problem or to plan a research project. These tasks allowed us to work on our planning skills, as well as to think about weaknesses or critical issues (*i.e.*, funding, timetable rearrangement etc...) and find a way to solve them.

Alongside the knowledge and skills, we gained during the workshop, what we received from this experience were fun and opportunities to exchange ideas and points of view with other colleagues that, in some cases, became friends. I would like to thank BSG (as well as Thomas, John and Lucy) for organizing this excellent workshop, and IAG for supporting the journey for non-British students with a travel grant, which also helped cover additional costs due to the pandemic restrictions.

I therefore highly recommend this splendid experience to all the young geomorphologists who have the opportunity to participate.

