



International Association of Geomorphologists

11th IAG International Conference on Geomorphology

Christchurch, New Zealand, 2–6 February 2026

and

ICG2026 Young Geomorphologists Training Program

“Methods for assessing geomorphic processes and change”

Christchurch, New Zealand, 30 January–7 February 2026

Report

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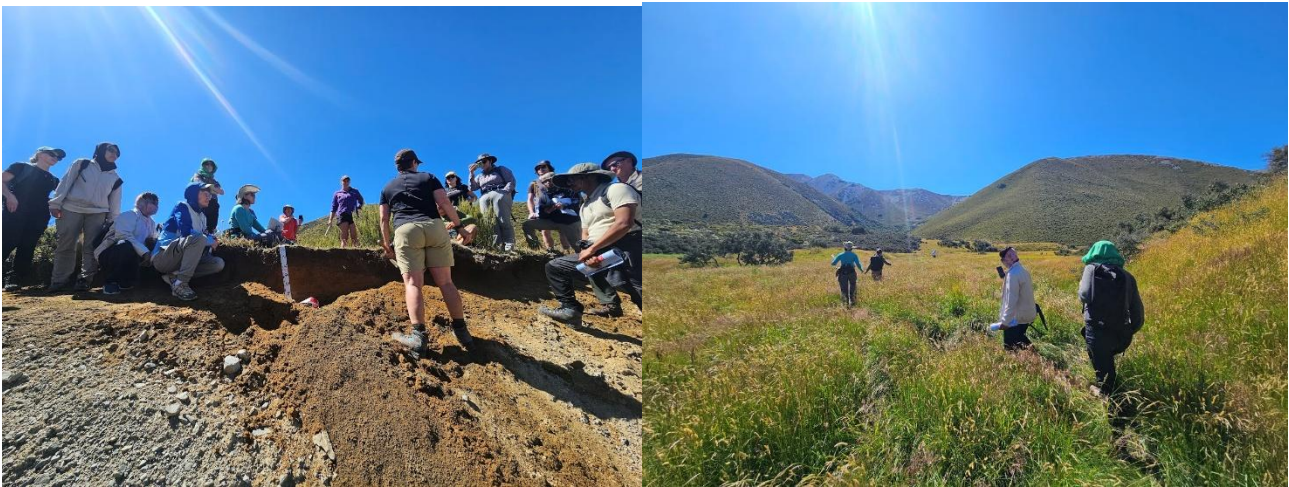
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I had the distinct privilege of participating in the ICG 2026 Young Geomorphologists Training Program from January 30 to February 5, 2026, in Christchurch, New Zealand, and surrounding locations. The training program was well-balanced and featured many helpful workshops and a field trip, which I will discuss more about. Before doing so, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to IAG, the Grants program, and the training officers (Drs. Bernatek-Jakiel and Karymbalis) for selecting me to participate in this program. Without the financial support, my attendance at the conference would not have been possible.

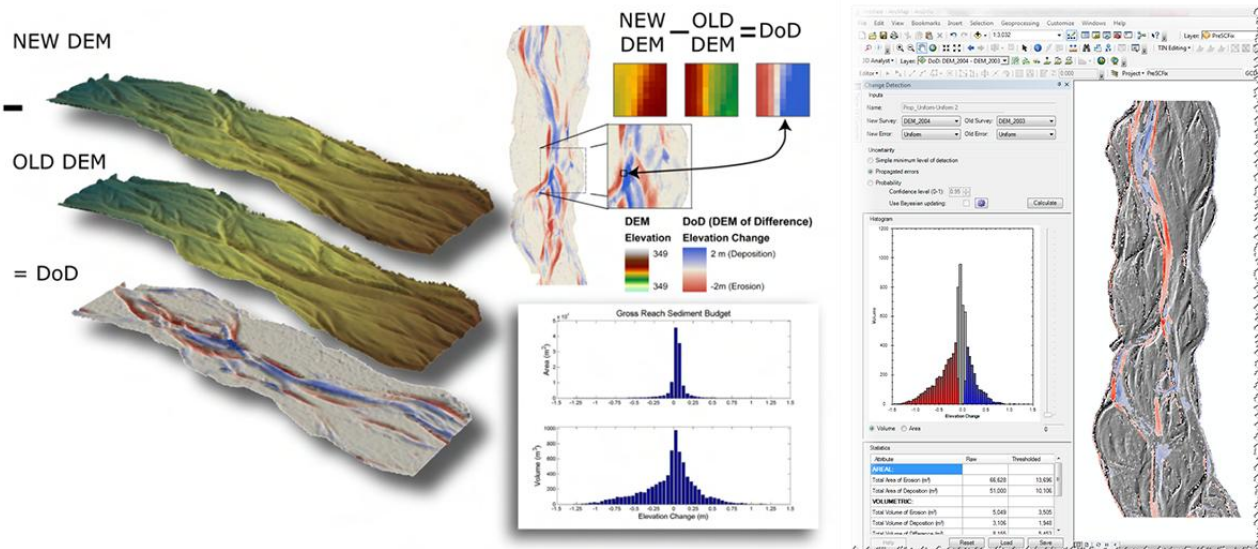
After arriving in Christchurch on January 29th, the first event of the training program was the all-day Cass field trip. After stopping at the iconic Sheffield Pies, we made our way up through the Southern Alps where we saw textbook examples of fluvial, glacial, soil, and tectonic geomorphic features. The variety of features to observe was stunning, and the field trip guides did a great job of communicating their expertise to the attendees. The photos below provide a snapshot of the field trip and the various activities we participated in, including digging a soil profile and traversing a recent landslide deposit.



International Association of Geomorphologists



The day after the Cass field trip, I participated in the Geomorphic Change Detection workshop, which was led by the creators of the software, Joe Wheaton and James Brasington. This workshop provided a thorough overview of the GCD software and its use to improve topographic change detection in rivers, particularly in the Canterbury area, which has highly dynamic fluvial systems. Throughout the workshop, all attendees could replicate the software procedures James illustrated, which was very helpful from a practical instruction standpoint. I was unfamiliar with GCD before the training program, and I plan on implementing its use in my research and teaching.



Unfortunately, the coastal mapping workshop was cancelled the day following the GCD workshop, but the Geo Quiz night still took place at the Illam Homestead on UC's campus. This pub-style quiz was a great event that allowed training program attendees to get to know each other in a more informal setting. The quiz itself was geomorphology-themed and definitely tested our knowledge!



International Association of Geomorphologists

The International Conference on Geomorphology began the following day, and with it, a jam-packed schedule of talks, posters, and networking opportunities. I primarily attended the oral presentations on coastal geomorphology, but I also made time to peruse all the posters in the conference hall. Following two days of conference activities, I participated in a mid-conference field trip led by Dr. Sarah McSweeney. This field trip was focused on observing a variety of coastal geomorphic features along the northern Canterbury coastline. This field trip was very well planned, as we saw a well-developed gravel bar and lagoon system (and sea lions!), a recently formed tidal inlet, a cliff-backed sandy beach, and a dune-backed sandy beach. The lunch stop at Terrace Vineyard was also memorable!



The next day (February 5), I gave my oral presentation in the “Coastal geomorphology: from monitoring techniques to littoral hazard analysis”. This session was well attended, and my speaker colleagues gave engaging, thought-provoking talks. I presented on my work developing a novel shoreline mapping technique using PlanetScope satellite imagery. Immediately after the session ended, I headed to the airport to return to Los Angeles. Unfortunately, personal circumstances prevented me from attending the planned training program activities the following weekend. Regardless, my time during the YGTP was fruitful, as I made many connections, learned new software, and visited sites of immense geomorphic value in just one week. Thank you again to IAG for this opportunity!