

Report for 2023 Gray-Milne Travel Bursary

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The Gray-Milne travel bursary was used for transport costs during my fieldwork in the Faroe Islands. Initially the funds were going to be used to visit the British Small Isles, but my PhD project changed direction slightly, and the fieldwork location changed to Faroe Islands for summer of 2024. This trip took 10 days in total, with two travel days and 8 field days. During this time I collected ~300 samples of basalt rock from a total of 24 sites. These samples will be used for rock magnetic, palaeodirectional, and palaeointensity experiments to determine the strength and direction of Earth's magnetic field between 55 – 57 Ma. In addition to palaeomagnetic sampling, I was able to collect a large sample to be used for Ar/Ar dating, as well as map the region of a stream bounded by red beds. With this data I will be able to produce a better picture of the Faroe Island's palaeomagnetic history, as well as understand the lithological differences of the lava emplacement on a local scale.

Not only was this trip beneficial to my PhD research project, but also enabled me to make personal and professional connections with a scientist at the Faroese Geological Survey in Torshavn – Heri Ziska. Through this I was able to gain more knowledge about culture and lifestyle of the Faroe Islands, as well as regional geology and offshore drilling and surveying.

