

# The British Geophysical Association

## Postgraduate newsletter



January 2025



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## What is the BGA?

The BGA is a joint association of the Geological Society of London (GSL) and the Royal Astronomical Society (RAS), and regularly feeds views into, and influences policy therein. The BGA committee is also in discussions to design closer ties with the Institute of Physics. We aim to promote geophysics in the UK and have an active political voice, regularly contributing documents to national enquiries and committee. As such it is important that it represents the views of the strong geophysics postgraduate community that we have in the UK.

Make sure you are a member of the BGA, to help shape the future of British geophysics. It is not enough to be on our mailing lists – you also need to email our secretary ([secretary@geophysics.org.uk](mailto:secretary@geophysics.org.uk)), stating that you wish to be a member. The only requirement is that you are already a Fellow of either RAS or GSL (more about this below). For any other questions and concerns about being a postgraduate in geophysics, please get in touch with me,

Frederik Dahl Madsen (he/him) – The BGA Postgraduate Representative ([postgraduate@geophysics.org.uk](mailto:postgraduate@geophysics.org.uk))

## Postgraduate Research in Progress Conference

The most important BGA event for UK-based postgraduates is the annual Postgraduate Research in Progress (PGRiP) conference, which was held last year at Imperial College London. PGRiP is organised by students, for students. It offers PhD students an opportunity to network and discuss your latest work with your peers in a friendly and inclusive environment. Whether you are presenting a poster, giving your first talk, or practising for larger conferences, everyone is welcome!

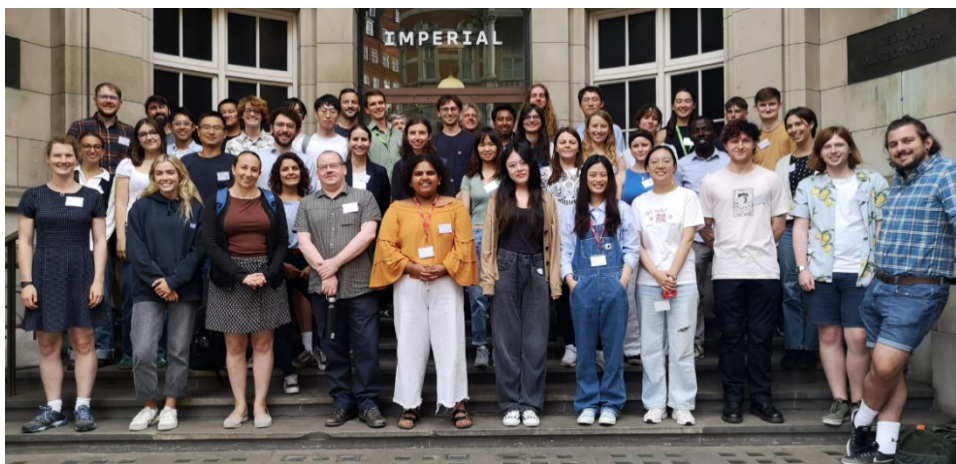


Image of PGRiP 2024 participants, standing in front of the Earth Science and Engineering Department, Imperial College London. They are smiling.

A big congratulations to the recipients of best talk and posters, and runner-ups, from PGRiP 2024:

Best talk: **Conor Rutland** (University of East Anglia), “Temporal evolution of inter-seismic strain rate at strike-slip and reverse faults from InSAR”

Best talk runner-up: **Banusha Kugabalan** (Imperial College London), “Determining palaeo-stress signals using rock magnetism in columnar basalts.”

Best poster: **Saoirse Coveney** (Imperial College London), “The early evolution of a young normal fault in the Aysen Fiord, Chile.”

Best poster runner-up: **James Atkins** (University of Cambridge), “Towards a global map of ultra-low velocity zones using S diffracted waves.”

The PGRiP 2025 meeting will be held at the **University of East Anglia** later this year. Dates are to be determined, so keep a look out for details on our meetings page: <https://geophysics.org.uk/details-of-upcoming-meetings/>

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## Become a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society

Did you know that, as a postgraduate geophysicist, you can become a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society (RAS)? Although geophysics does not appear in the name, RAS has traditionally been the learned society astronomers and geophysicists alike. It is therefore important to get an equal representation of geophysicists and astronomers.

As a fellow, you get free attendance to all RAS scientific meetings, access to travel and research grants, a free subscription to the magazine [Astronomy & Geophysics](#), and – last but not least – option to use the honorific postnomen, FRAS. The easiest route to become a Fellow is through nomination (Route 1). As of 2025, the student membership fee is £5 for the first year, and £31 for the following years.

You can find the information on how to join the RAS here: <https://ras.ac.uk/membership/join>. We recommend finding a Fellow to nominate you in your own department, however, if that fails, please get in touch with anyone on the BGA committee, and we will be happy to help. The next newsletter will describe how to become a fellow of GSL.

## Upcoming UK geophysics meetings

### Frontiers in Electromagnetic (EM) Geophysics

University of Swansea, Bay Campus, UK  
25th – 26th June, 2025

This goal of this meeting is to establish the state of EM science in the UK, relative to world-wide context, to consolidate UK EM community, identify current capabilities, and identify future opportunities and needs. Four main themes: Marine EM, Deep-looking terrestrial EM, near-surface EM, Space Weather. More details will be available soon on the BGA website.

### Mineral Physics Group Research in Progress Meeting 2025 + Workshop on Outer Core Properties and Dynamics

University of Edinburgh, UK  
8th – 10th April, 2025

The Mineral Physics Group Research in Progress meeting bring together post-graduate and post-doctoral researchers from all areas of high-pressure mineralogy & crystallography, mineral magnetism, molecular crystallography, computational mineral physics, geophysics, and planetary science to encourage the development of collaborations and sharing of results from recent research. More information is available on the Mineral Physics groups website: [https://minphys.github.io/RiP\\_2025.html](https://minphys.github.io/RiP_2025.html)

## A drop in future geophysicists?

A decline in the number of undergraduate geophysics students has led to the closures of several geophysics courses around the UK, despite the geophysicists being listed as three of the top five jobs on the government's Shortage Occupation List which identified gaps in the UK labour market.

The BGA committee has set out to explore the reasons for this trend. So far, the preliminary results have been published in A&G and Geoscientist:

A&G article:

<https://doi.org/10.1093/astrogeo/atae056>

Geoscientist article:

<https://geoscientist.online/sections/unearthed/an-attractive-yet-unfamiliar-path/>

If you have ideas, thoughts or are interested in getting involved with this work please contact a member of the BGA committee. You can also contribute to our community resources document available here: [tinyurl.com/BGAcomres](https://tinyurl.com/BGAcomres)

## Recent Postgraduate Publications

We wish to highlight postgraduate publications! If you have any recent publications or public outreach projects, send it to [postgraduate@geophysics.org.uk](mailto:postgraduate@geophysics.org.uk) to get it featured in the next newsletter.