

**Dear Academic Fund Committee,**

Thank you very much for helping me with my recent visit to 3-day the Joint Assembly 2017 geology conference in Liverpool. It was a wonderful opportunity for me to both observe scientific collaboration in action, and actively participate by presenting a scientific poster of my own, based on the work I have done as part of my Masters project.

The conference, the inaugural joint meeting of the 3 main geological associations, consisted of talks interspersed with poster sessions. The work of people from the 3 groups (The Volcanic and Magmatic Studies Group, Tectonic Studies group and the British Geophysical Association) showed how important interdisciplinary work already is and will continue to be.



From a personal perspective, attending the conference was very beneficial to my Masters project which I have recently handed in. Discussing my work with other people in the field challenged my lines of reasoning and obliged me to justify the techniques I had used throughout the various stages of analysis. Furthermore, explaining to people who are not working in exactly the same field requires adaptability of explanation and conversation, soft skills which are extremely beneficial for the future. I was also fortunate in that one of the keynote speakers at the conference was Prof Frey Stein Sigmundsson from Iceland who had worked on the same volcanic eruption (Bardarbunga-Holuhraun 2014) that I have been working on during the vacation and Michaelmas term with the Cambridge volcano seismology team.

*My colleague PhD student Tom Winder (left) and myself (right) with our conference posters.*

*He looked at seismicity due to dyke propagation immediately prior to the eruption.*

*I looked at seismicity in the region after the eruption had finished.*

