



European Association of Geochemistry



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CONFERENCE TIPS FOR EARLY CAREER SCIENTISTS

Conferences are an essential part of a researcher's life. They provide the chance to present your work to new audiences, forge new connections and strengthen existing ones, meet experts in your field, search for career opportunities, and develop professional skills. With Goldschmidt2019 just a few weeks away, and places on workshops, field trips and early career events filling up rapidly, we have compiled some of the most frequently mentioned conference tips from our EAG Sponsored Students and Early Career Science Ambassadors.



Plenty of opportunities for networking. PHOTO: NANG HTAY YIN, AGU2016

Travelling: Arrive a Day Early and Make the Most of Your Journey

"Spend an hour or two on your flight over looking through the conference app and organising your conference diary." – Jon Hawkings

Getting to a conference often involves several hours' travel as well as multiple transport changes, making it quite tiring and stressful even for the most experienced conference-goer. If you are crossing time-zones, allow yourself a day off before the conference to acclimatize and recover from jet-lag. Take a couple of hours on your first day to find your way around, do some sight-seeing, or simply to just relax so that you are feeling fresh for the start of the conference. The journey itself can also be a great opportunity to do some conference planning. Download the conference app before you leave and take some time on the plane or train to browse the various sessions, workshops, and events on the program.

Sign Up for a Pre-Conference Workshop or Field Trip; Make the Most of Mentoring Programs, Networking Opportunities, and Social Events

"Making friends before the conference means that you have a big group of friendly faces that you know when you're at the conference ... a vital crutch when giving presentations!" – Stacy Phillips

"Go to the social events organised for you. They are full of great, interesting people (and often have the bonus of good food). Step outside your group and talk with as many people as possible." – Becca Neely



Check out the poster space before your presentation. PHOTO: MARK FOX-POWELL, LPSC, 2018

"Before the event, the early career researchers were assigned a mentor to help guide them and act as a friendly face throughout the conference. If you feel a bit overwhelmed and shy, your mentor can introduce you to other people that you may have hesitated approaching!" – Emily Dearing Crampton-Flood

Almost every conference kicks off with an ice-breaker reception on the first evening, but for first-time attendees, large events like this can be quite daunting. Arrange a place to meet up with friends in advance, then grab some refreshments before exploring together. Don't be afraid to visit the exhibitor stands, pick up some freebies and chat to others there. It's also a good time to pick out any exhibitors that you might want to speak to later in the week.

There will certainly be a dedicated program for early career scientists, packed with all kinds of career advice, skills development, and social events, often for free or at very low prices. Common themes include writing grant proposals, academic publishing, entering the job market, and science communication. Not only are these program themes great opportunities to learn new skills, they are also perfect for meeting new people, so do check out the program at the earliest opportunity and sign up quickly. Mentoring programs provide much-valued support for novice conference attendees, matching students one-on-one with an experienced scientist to help them navigate all aspects of the conference, including introducing new contacts, accompanying the mentee at networking events, helping them search out career opportunities, and discussing their science in relation to the sessions they attend. As always, be sure to register as soon as possible to avoid missing out!

Getting Ready for Your Presentation

"Before giving any oral presentation, it is always a good idea to scope out the room ahead of time. This way you have an idea of the room size, where the projector is and what is available to you on the podium." – Deirdre Clark

"A successful poster presentation will depend on how well you convey information to an interested audience. Remember to consider not only the content but also your presentation style (e.g. enthusiasm, liveliness, visuals)." – Gordon Inglis

The advice that is always given for preparing any presentation is "Practice, practice, practice". This starts before you even set foot on the plane and will surely continue in your hotel room and with friends at coffee breaks. Take advantage of any workshops, events, or facilities provided by the conference to rehearse and get feedback on your presentation. At the conference centre itself, take the time to visit the poster area or room where you will be presenting and familiarise yourself with the environment and atmosphere to help calm any pre-presentation jitters!

Suitcase Essentials – What to Bring?

“Comfy shoes were definitely needed to make the most of your time at the conference, as going from the rooms where some talks were given to the Exhibitor’s Hall could take almost 10 minutes!” – Laia Coma.

A pair of comfortable shoes was always at the top of the list of things to bring in our EAG Ambassador and Sponsored Student reports, but what other handy items do they suggest you pack?

- A notebook and pen (and visit the stands in the Exhibition Hall if you run out!).
- A guidebook of the city, including a map of the local area.
- A powerbank in case the conference app saps all your phone’s battery!
- A water bottle to help keep you hydrated. If you want to do your bit for the environment, invest in a travel coffee cup.
- A rain coat and a jumper (even in warmer climes, the air-conditioning can make conference centres feel quite chilly).
- Medication. Changes in diet and climate, long flights, and crowded lecture theatres can all upset your system and natural rhythms. Bring a supply of basic remedies with you, not forgetting any essential medication prescribed to you by your doctor.

Finally, Look After Yourself and Don’t Do Too Much!

“You can’t see everything, so don’t try... Accept you’ll miss some things and don’t stress about it. If you miss someone you really wanted to see (because you were networking at lunch, had an oral session in a room 10-minutes away or simply picked up on it too late) be proactive and e-mail them. People are always happy to meet.” – Jon Hawkings.

Reports from EAG Sponsored Students and Early Career Ambassadors are a regular feature on the EAG Blogosphere at www.blog.eag.eu.com. To find out more about EAG support for conference attendance, visit www.eag.eu.com/early-career/. To view the Early Career Program at Goldschmidt2019, visit the conference website at <http://goldschmidt.info/2019/>.



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Early registration deadline: **18 June 2019**
Standard registration deadline: **18 July 2019**

UPCOMING EAG SPONSORED CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

Developments in Noble Gas Understanding and Expertise (DINGUE) VI

ETH Zürich (Switzerland), 15–17 August 2019

DINGUE is a geochemistry workshop covering all technical and scientific aspects of noble gas geochemistry and cosmochemistry. In 2019, the workshop will be held at ETH Zürich (Switzerland) on the weekend before the Goldschmidt Conference in Barcelona (Spain). We will kick off the DINGUE workshop with an ice breaker on Thursday 15 August 2019 (18.00–21.00) and will continue with talks and posters on Friday 16 and Saturday 17 August. We recommend travelling to Barcelona on Sunday 18 August.

Abstract submission/Registration: The workshop has a limited number of participants and we recommend registering as soon as possible. Abstract submission will close on **15 June 2019**. Registration will close on **15 July 2019** or when full. Thanks to a generous donation from the European Association of Geochemistry, a student travel support of €125 will be awarded to eight students presenting their work at DINGUE VI.

For further information,
visit <http://sites.google.com/view/dingue2019/home>.

Wageningen Soil Conference 2019: Understanding Soil Functions

Wageningen (The Netherlands), 27–30 August 2019

Wageningen University and Research is delighted to invite you to the fourth edition of the Wageningen Soil Conference. As in previous editions, the aim is to discuss the importance of soils. In the 2019 edition, the focus will be on understanding soil functions: as we might put it, “from ped to planet”. To do this, we will adopt a new style of conference. There will be traditional conference talks in the mornings, but these will be followed by scientific and interactive topic masterclasses in the afternoons, ranging from field trips to interactive classroom dialogues and from demonstrations to hands-on laboratory or computer tutorials. Each conference day will conclude with a public event, such as a fishbowl debate or, on Wednesday 28 August, the ‘Rising Soil Stars’ pitch competition for early career scientists, which has been generously sponsored by the European Association of Geochemistry.

Deadlines: Abstract submission – 15 April 2019; Early bird registration – 30 May 2019

For more information, please visit: <http://wageningensoilconference.eu>