

Having spent several months in Brazil for the benefit of my PhD research, I felt it necessary to take the opportunity to attend a large international conference. With the aid of the NWRAD Travel Grant award, I was lucky enough to be able to present my research at the iCACGP/IGAC Atmospheric Chemistry conference in Natal. One of the most appealing aspects of the iCACGP/IGAC conferences, aside from its well-known prestige amongst the atmospheric chemistry community, was the young scientist programme. The opportunity to share ideas and experiences with other research students based across the globe was a fantastic prospect. It was also a happy coincidence that the conference venue was the paradisiacal coastal city of Natal, just south of the equator – a far cry from Manchester, where I'm based.

Over the course of the five day conference, I was able to attend over 60 oral presentations specific to my field. Specific topics varied greatly, from statistical approaches to smoke distribution in the Amazon basin, to the effects of aerosols deposition in Antarctica. However, despite the range, I was able to take something away from each presentation. As previously mentioned, there were activities aimed exclusively at young scientists, including an insightful workshop on the practice of delivering a high quality oral presentation. Throughout the event, there were over 300 posters presented. As with the oral presentations, each poster presentation I observed was useful in some way. My own presentation appeared to be equally well received, a great deal of interest was shown from many attendees. I received some very helpful feedback on the experimental and analytical techniques exhibited in my poster. Furthermore, the conference environment enabled me to share contact details with researchers based at universities around the world and even acquaint myself with some based at different universities in Manchester. I am extremely grateful for the award from the NWRAD, I feel that the conference was an invaluable experience for both my research now and my future career opportunities.



Andrew Brown
PhD Student
Manchester Metropolitan University