

Geraldine Monjardez - Feedback from attending the Spec2010 Conference in June/July 2010

Firstly, attending the conference has given me the opportunity to assist at some really inspirational talks by leading researchers in the field of spectroscopy. The question sessions that followed the talks were especially good since they engaged discussions and enabled people to share their opinions on the work that was presented. The program of the conference was well varied with each session comprehending about 4 talks, which had been well categorized following the subject of the talk. Students who did not get the chance to talk still got the opportunity to present their work via flash presentations, which were useful to get an overview of the work that was conducted. Due to the length of the conference and the way it had been laid out, there was plenty of opportunity to talk to the speakers and ask them more specific questions about their work if we did not get the time to do it at the question session that followed the talks.

Secondly, it was also very interesting for us PhD students to see and hear how the work was conducted by groups within the UK and outside the UK. It was impressive to see so many research groups getting together to discuss the advances that have been made in Spectroscopy and the direction in which they were aiming to take this field in the future, in addition to what has to be done to reach these goals.

Finally, presenting two posters on my researches at the conference allowed for other researchers to provide feedbacks and give opinions and/or potential solutions on issues that I was encountering. By discussing my work with them, it gave me new perspectives and new ideas on how to move it forward. Also, with respect to conferences with more general topics, Spec2010 allowed me to meet fellow PhD students that are working in the same field as I am, sometimes on similar projects. They had therefore been through similar issues... and their opinions and ideas helped me with my own project since they might have different perspectives than mine.