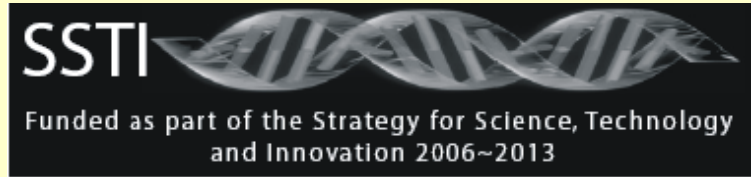




National Development Plan 2007 - 2013

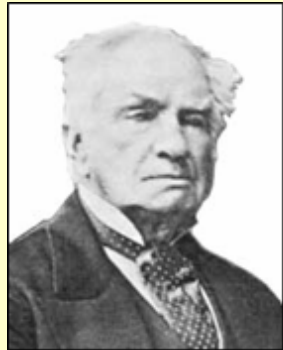
Funded by the Irish Government under the
National Development Plan (2007-2013)



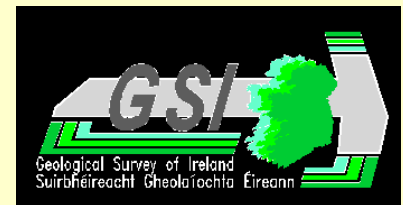
Funded as part of the Strategy for Science, Technology
and Innovation 2006~2013

Griffith Geoscience Research Award

Irish Geoscience Graduate Programme (IGGP)



Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources
Roinn Cumarsaíde, Fuinnimh agus Acmhainní Nadúrtha



Current Situation

- <50 geoscience academics in Ireland
- Approximately 15 new graduate students per year
- Students trained in specialist research with 3 year grants

Current Situation – The Challenges

- <50 geoscience academics in Ireland
→ This is the size of major U.K. Departments!
- Approximately 15 new graduate students per year
→ Need to double this number by 2012
- Students trained in specialist research with 3 year grants
→ Students must acquire broad holistic skills and not become “clones” of their supervisors

Current Situation – The Solutions

- <50 geoscience academics in Ireland
→ This is the size of major U.K. Departments!
We MUST work together across the whole island
- Approximately 15 new graduate students per year
→ Need to double this number by 2012
Need to make geoscience attractive, and attract the best students
- Students trained in specialist research with 3 year grants
→ Students must acquire broad holistic skills and not become “clones” of their supervisors
All students should have a broad-based training component as part of a 4 year PhD programme

Irish Geoscience Graduate Programme

Project Leader:

Prof. Alan G. Jones, Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies (DIAS)

Partner Institutions:

DIAS, NUIG, TCD, UCC, UCD, UUC

Linked Institutions:

GSI, GSNI*more to follow*

Objective:

To co-ordinate and facilitate the provision of specialist geoscience training for postgraduate students across the island of Ireland



DIAS

NUIG

TCD

UCC

UCD

UUC

GSI

GSNI

IGGP Griffith Award

Funded in 2007 for a period of seven years:

- **Co-ordinator for first two years**
- **Administrator for following five years**
- **Workshops during formation**
- **Advertising materials**

IGGP Progress to Date

IGGP co-ordinator post advertised in early 2008.

Professor M.J. (Ben) Kennedy was appointed and began work in March 2008. He has:

- Visited all geoscience departments/schools and met with all academic staff to discuss the programme.**
- Met with some key senior university personnel.**
- Met with other key geoscientific personnel (e.g. President of IGI, Scientific Advisory to DCENR)**

Geoscience departments/schools have provided an initial suite of potential short courses that could be offered in the programme.

IGGP Courses

Lecture/Practical Courses

Offered by all participants, including GSI, GSNI, industry, etc.

Laboratory Training Courses

Offered by all participants, including GSI, GSNI, industry, etc.

Field Courses

Offered by academic institutions and GSI, GSNI, industry, etc.

Courses will typically earn 2½ or 5 ECTS credits.

5 credit courses will involve total of 100-120 hours, e.g. 5-6 days of contact time, 5-7 days of preparation and follow-up work, and a period of assessment.

Examples of Possible IGGP Courses

Lecture/Practical Courses

- Global Seismology
- Basic Maths and Physics: Simple Tools for the Geoscientist
- Environmental and Marine Geophysics
- Fluid Inclusion Studies: Methods and Applications
- Palynology, Micropalaeontology & Biostratigraphy
- Major Events in the History of Life
- Basin Analysis
- Professional Practice

Laboratory Training Courses

- In-situ Analytical Techniques
- Ore Geology

Field Courses

- Field Mapping Techniques
- Applied Sequence Stratigraphy

Irish Geoscience Graduate Programme

Remaining Challenges

- Agreeing suitable range and blend of courses.
- Providing and funding new courses without additional staff.
- Incentivising staff to provide additional new courses and adequate numbers of graduate students to take them.
- Integrating new intensive short courses into existing academic timetable.
- Funding travel/subsistence for graduates taking courses away from home institution.
- Agreeing credit transfer system between institutions.
- Convincing university management of benefits of providing courses for students from other institutions without fee transfer.

Irish Geoscience Graduate Programme

Potential Benefits

- Producing research graduates with a better and broader skill set than currently provided.
- Fostering collaboration and networking between graduate students.
- Providing an incentive to top quality students from other countries to carry out research work in Ireland.
- Developing and sharing expertise between Irish geoscience institutions.
- Facilitating the development of an integrated and cohesive national geoscience sector.

Target launch of first courses: September 2009