

30th July 2024

Application for British Geomorphology Society Education and Outreach Secretary

To whom it may concern,

I would like to be considered for the advertised role of British Geomorphology Society Education and Outreach Secretary. The dissemination of geographical knowledge, further than the students I work directly with as a Lecturer in Earth and Environmental Sciences, has been an integral and important part of my role since the start of my PhD. Alongside my natural aptitude for organisation, teamwork and working efficiently, I think this passion for outreach and education make me an excellent candidate for the advertised role.

My passion for disseminating geographical and geomorphological understanding initially started through my involvement with Brathay Exploration Group, where I took part in and then led an expedition to Tunsbergdalsbreen Glacier in Norway. This project worked with the Norwegian Glacier Museum to bring a diverse group of university students to undertake an expedition in a remote location that they will have never experience before. Organising and leading the expedition in 2011 and 2012 showed me just how important it was to give people from all backgrounds a chance to undertake an experience that was unique, and ultimately life changing. I also realised the importance of introducing young people to geography and geomorphology in a fun and accessible way – this meant they could see how the aspects of the subject related to them and that ultimately, these subjects were really interesting!

From then on, I took, and continue to take, every opportunity to be involved in outreach activities through my PhD, in my temporary associate lecturer roles and in my current role. Following involvement in the annual Science and Engineering week activities at Aberystwyth University during my PhD I found I had a real passion for interacting with school children – finding ways to explain complex glacial geomorphological concepts in an accessible and engaging way was a challenge I relished. Being part of the Royal Society ‘Vanishing Glaciers of Everest’ stand developed this love further, as we discussed climate and glacial change with 10 of 1000s of people of all ages and backgrounds at a number of science- focused festivals and through numerous school visits across the UK. Alongside the love of interacting with people, I also thoroughly enjoyed the process of developing new outreach materials and executing these plans. The workshop ‘Climate Change: Fact or Fake News’ that I developed for the Wales-based SEREN network was an example of this – I thoroughly enjoyed taking a glimmer of an idea I had through to a workshop I have now delivered around 10 times over 4 years.

My passion for outreach continues, and I take every opportunity I can to be involved with outreach opportunities in my current lecturing role, as well as embedding it within research projects or developing grant applications focused on knowledge dissemination. Examples of this include the International Science Partnerships Fund my colleague and I have recently procured, for which we will run a workshop to teach Nepalese policy makers, government officials and university students on a GIS-based risk assessment tool for geohazards. I am also part of a NERC Pushing Frontiers grant application (decision pending) in which we have incorporated outreach into every aspect of the project, as we think a research project is not successful until the results of that research have been disseminated to the wider public that would be affected by our findings.

I am applying for the advertised role not only due to passion for education and outreach, but also because I excel in, and thoroughly enjoy, taking on organisational roles and feel I can use my excellent time management, teamwork and administration skills to positively contribute to the BSG education and Outreach committee as their secretary. I use these organisational skills within academia, as the

departmental coordinator of personal tutors for around 30 members of staff and 400 students and as part of the department recruitment team. In the former role I have been commended for my organisational expertise to the role through my approach being used as best practice within the university. These skills were developed and refined through roles as Marketing coordinator for Brathay Exploration Group, as an Executive Assistant and subsequently Operations Manager for The Outdoor Swimming Society, and currently as a minute taker, website editor and newsletter sub-editor for Pencader Regeneration group – a thriving local bilingual community group that looks to regenerate the community through environmental, food growing and community focused projects.

My involvement in the British Society of Geomorphology started as a PhD student. I attended the annual conference three times and was Deputy Chair and later Chair of the BSG Postgraduate forum. I found the BSG to be extremely welcoming, encouraging and a great society to be part of. Now that I have a permanent role in academia, I would love to be involved in the society again and help foster that positive experience I had for academics and postgraduates alike. As an early career researcher I would also like to advocate for ECRs within the Education and Outreach working group and throughout the BSG, advocating for the excellent work ECRs are doing within science outreach and the difficulties faced by ECRs in career progression, with a particular passion for showcasing how longer and less direct routes into academia can provide them with key academic skills that more conventional academics may not have developed.

I do hope you will consider me further for the role of BSG Education and Outreach Secretary. It would be a huge pleasure and an honour to be involved in the society again, and I hope you can see from my covering letter and CV that I would work hard to contribute to the smooth and successful running of the committee.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Morgan Jones', with a stylized, cursive script.

Dr Morgan Jones