

BNASS Report: Claire Richards

I would like to thank The Royal Society of Chemistry Atomic Spectroscopy Group for affording me the opportunity to attend the 21st BNASS (Biennial National Atomic Spectroscopy Symposium) September 2024 held at The Royal Society of Chemistry, Burlington House, London.

The grant I received gifted me the chance to present my work investigating the effect of cone size on laser ablation ICP-MS data so early on in my degree. As a first year PhD student this was a valuable experience to be able to practice both presenting to an audience in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere, and to engage with experts in my field in the context of my research. I was particularly encouraged by the amount of interest my research received, a factor which has given me great confidence.

Albeit the scope of the conference, I enjoyed being in an environment filled with likeminded researchers who focus their work on atomic mass spectrometry. It is evident that the topic is greatly overlooked in most other spectroscopy related meetings, thus I found the diversity and extent of research topics within the field particularly fascinating. I wish to pass on my commendations to the organising committee for putting together a well-structured event with a great selection of keynote speakers and I felt the integration of interactive breakout sessions was a great way of maintaining engagement throughout the day.

Overall, I feel that many aspects of the conference not only met but exceeded my expectations. I would highly encourage other research students to attend the conference, and not be reserved about applying for an attendance bursary if needed.

Once again, thank you for the experience.