

Department of Earth Sciences
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July 6th 2011

To the Foundation Board of Trustees,

Recently I was awarded the Institut Francais du Perole Grant and wanted to write to thank the AAPG for awarding this grant and making my research possible.

Currently I am in the second year of studying for a PhD at Durham University. My work is concentrating on characterizing fracture systems within the upfaulted crystalline basement of the Outer Hebridean Islands as an onshore analogue to the large offshore Clair oilfield. As such, the project is heavily fieldwork orientated and involves extensive sample collection and analysis. The grant awarded by AAPG will allow me to produce adequate numbers of thin sections from the samples I collect, and allow me to spend enough time in the field to collect substantial amounts of data. The insights this will give me in my future career will undoubtedly prove invaluable.

In short, this grant allows me to concentrate on expanding the range of my studies and enables me to spend sufficient time in the field to produce a reliable and accurate insight into fracturing within the basement in the Outer Hebrides.

Thank you very much for this opportunity.

Yours sincerely,

Ben Franklin
PhD Research Student