

First Timers' Guide to the EGU General Assembly



Inside the Austria Vienna Center during the EGU 2018 General Assembly (Credit: EGU/Tim Middleton)

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The European Geosciences Union (EGU)



The European Geosciences Union (www.egu.eu) is Europe's premier geosciences union, dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in the Earth, planetary and space sciences for the benefit of humanity, worldwide. It is a non-profit interdisciplinary learned association of scientists founded in 2002 and with head-quarters in Munich, Germany.

The EGU publishes a number of diverse scientific journals, which use an innovative open access format. It also organises a number of meetings, including the annual EGU General Assembly, and education and outreach activities. These activities include Geosciences Information For Teachers (GIFT) workshops,

the support of <u>early career researchers</u>, media services (including <u>press releases</u>), the <u>EGU blogs</u>, and a monthly <u>email newsletter</u>, together with an <u>awards and medals</u> programme for outstanding scientists. We also fund <u>training schools</u> and conferences, including <u>EGU Galileo Conferences</u>, which address well-focused cutting-edge topics at the frontier of geosciences research.

The General Assembly

The EGU General Assembly is the largest and most prominent European geosciences event, attracting thousands of scientists from all over the world (over 15,000 in 2018). The meeting's sessions cover a wide range of topics, including volcanology, planetary exploration, the Earth's internal structure and atmosphere, climate, energy and resources. The <u>EGU General Assembly 2019</u> is taking place in Vienna, Austria from 7 to 12 April 2019.

The first General Assembly of the European Geosciences Union was held in Nice, France, in 2004 and subsequent General Assemblies have been held at the Austria Center Vienna (ACV) in Vienna, Austria. Each EGU annual meeting regularly convenes participants from more than 100 countries, giving presentations in multiple fields across the Earth, planetary and space sciences.

While the scientific programme of the meeting is coordinated by the <u>EGU Programme Committee</u>, the logistics are mostly handled by our meeting organiser <u>Copernicus Meetings</u>.

Communication and online resources

The main source of information is the <u>General Assembly website</u>. Details of previous meetings can be found <u>on the EGU website</u>. You can submit abstracts, register for the event and browse the session programme on the Assembly website.

The European Geosciences Union's official blog (geolog.egu.eu), Facebook page and Twitter account (@EuroGeosciences, conference hashtag: **#EGU19**) are also good sources of information and news in the run up to, and during, the General Assembly. They are frequently updated during the meeting and are an excellent way of following what's going on at the conference online.

The EGU General Assembly 2019 mobile app will be available a few days/weeks prior to the General Assembly. You will be able to download it by scanning the QR code available on the General Assembly website or by going directly to app.egu2019.eu on your mobile device. You will be directed to the version of the EGU General Assembly 2019 app for your particular smartphone, which you can download for free. The app can be used to browse and search the meeting programme, select presentations to be added to your own personal programme, and find out more about the General Assembly on Twitter.

Another good source of information at the General Assembly is the daily newsletter EGU Today, which highlights sessions and events at the meeting each day of the week. From 2019 onward, EGU Today will be digital. Issues will be available online on the General Assembly website and through the conference app during the meeting.

Before arriving: abstracts, travel support, registration

New abstract guidelines

Starting with the 2019 General Assembly, only EGU members are eligible to submit abstracts to the EGU meeting. You can easily become a member, or renew your membership, at https://www.egu.eu/membership/benefits/. Students receive a 50% discount in their membership rate. All EGU members benefit from substantially reduced registration rates to the meeting.

For 2019, we are also introducing the one-abstract rule. Authors are allowed as first author to submit either one regular abstract plus one abstract solicited by a convener, or two solicited abstracts. A second regular abstract can be submitted to the Educational and Outreach Symposia (EOS) programme group (maximum number of abstracts, including solicited abstracts, remains two). Possible submissions for first authors are: 1 regular + 1 solicited abstract; or 2 solicited abstracts; or 1 regular or solicited abstract + 1 EOS abstract (regular or solicited). Participants can be co-authors on additional abstracts in which they are not first author.

Submitting an abstract

Abstracts should be short (100–500 words), clear, concise and written in English. They should not include any figures or tables. When writing an abstract, any mathematical symbols and equations you wish to include must be typed in, and you should make sure you use metric units. Before submission, we recommend that you carefully compile and thoroughly check your abstract, particularly with regards to the list of authors, to avoid any last-minute changes. Abstracts can be presented either as a poster, oral, or during a PICO (Presenting Interactive COntent) session, by the author or one of the co-authors. Upon submission, you must designate a specific session for each abstract. Online guidelines are available on the EGU General Assembly 2019 website. In 2019, the deadline for the receipt of abstracts is **10 January 2019, 13:00 CET**, or **1 December 2018**, if you are applying for travel support.

- Use a text editor of your choice to compile your abstract: title, author(s), affiliation(s) of author(s), and abstract text. Your abstract body should have 100–500 words.
- Browse through the <u>session programme</u> (called 'Call for abstracts' prior to the abstract deadline) and select the session of your interest.



Poster Hall at the EGU 2018 General Assembly at the Austria Center Vienna (Credit: EGU/Keri McNamara)

- Use the abstract submission link at the respective session. Please keep in mind that submission of the same abstract to more than one session is not allowed. Duplicates will be rejected.
- You will be asked to log in to the Copernicus Office Meeting Organizer. Use your account data or create a new account.
- Fill in the submittal information about title, author(s), and affiliation(s) of author(s).
- Choose between plain text, LaTeX, or Word content with regard to the abstract text.
- Please remember that a LaTeX submission only refers to general LaTeX commands directly inserted into the form (e.g. formatting commands like superscripts and subscripts, and special characters). Style packages and environment commands cannot be considered and must not be included in the form.
- For Word content, please copy-and-paste your information into the form or download and use the Word template.
- Select your preference for poster presentation or for oral presentation. However, please be aware that there is no guarantee that an oral preference can be realised. If a session is identified as a PICO session, the oral/poster preference cannot be selected as the abstract is automatically marked as PICO.
- Accept the <u>licence & copyright agreement</u> as well as the <u>rules of conduct</u> and proceed to the abstract preview.
- Check the generated PDF file of your edited and formatted abstract. Please note that this PDF is only a preview file (indication 'Preview' is highlighted in the abstract header) to enable you to check the input. Close the PDF preview and click on "Payment" to proceed.
- If the conversion of your abstract fails, please specify your problems and Copernicus (egu2019@copernicus.org) will then take care of them;
- In any case, please indicate your invoice details for the abstract processing charge (APC) as well as your payment method (credit card or PayPal). If the first author of the abstract has not yet become an EGU member, the abstract submission form requires you to pay the

- membership in addition to the APC. You will then receive two separate invoices for the APC and the membership fee.
- Submit your abstract. You will receive a confirmation email providing your abstract number. Should you not receive the abstract submission confirmation email within 24 hours, please check your spam folder first and then contact Copernicus at egu2019@copernicus.org.

Please note that an APC of €40 must be paid for each abstract submission. For late abstracts (submitted by conveners after 10 January 2019) a higher APC of €80 gross will be invoiced. Abstracts are only processed and available for the session organisation by conveners after the payment is complete. Please note that this is a processing charge and not a publishing fee. Therefore, APCs are non-refundable in case of abstract withdrawal, rejection or double submission. Further, the APC does not register you for the General Assembly so you must register separately to attend the meeting and pay the appropriate registration fee. Solicited speakers do not receive discounted APCs, registration fees or travel reimbursement. Additional information about why the EGU introduced APCs back in 2011 is available online.

Roland Schlich Travel Support

The EGU is committed to promoting the participation of both early career scientists and established researchers from low and middle income countries who wish to present their work at the EGU General Assembly. To encourage participation of scientists from both these groups, a limited amount of the overall budget of the EGU General Assembly is reserved to provide financial support to those who wish to attend the meeting. The financial support may include waiving of the registration fee and a refund of the APC related to the abstract for which support was requested. Additionally, the grant may include support for travel expenditures. Note that, in honour of Roland Schlich, who was instrumental in the formation of EGU, the travel award programme was renamed in late 2017 and is now known as the Roland Schlich Travel Support scheme.

You fulfil the EGU's <u>criteria</u> as an early career scientist (ECS) if:

- You are an undergraduate or postgraduate (Masters/PhD) student or a scientist who has received his or her highest degree (BSc, MSc, or PhD) within the past seven years.
- Provided parental leave fell into that 7-year period, up to one year of parental leave time may be added per child, where appropriate.

Each support award is granted to the contact author for a particular abstract. Should this abstract be withdrawn before the meeting or not be presented when the awarded author is present, the award has to be returned, i.e. the author in question will be asked to register and, if necessary, to pay back the money received. Awards cannot be transferred.

The Roland Schlich Travel Support scheme includes the following grants:

- Early Career Scientist's Travel Support (ECSTS): this grant includes a free registration together with a refund of the APC related to the abstract for which support was requested. Depending on the decision of the Support Committee, additional financial support for the travel expenditures with a maximum of €300 could be granted as well.
- Established Scientist's Travel Support (ESTS) this grant includes a free registration together with a refund of the APC related to the abstract for which support was requested. Depending on the decision of the Support Committee, additional financial support for the travel expenditures with a maximum of €300 could be granted as well.

Scientists who wish to apply for financial support must be the contact author, as well as the first and presenting author, of their contribution and they must submit an abstract by **1 December**. For more information about the Roland Schlich Travel Support scheme, including eligibility conditions and how to apply, please check the <u>EGU General Assembly 2019 website</u>.

Registration

Discounts for registration are given for EGU members, students and senior scientists. Pre-registration is possible at a lower rate and on-site registration is also available. Further information, including registration fees, can be found on the EGU General Assembly 'Registration' page. Registration includes a name badge and a free travel pass for central Vienna for Monday–Friday of the General Assembly. Registration desks are open on Sunday afternoon before the opening reception to allow participants to register and pick up conference materials.

Timetabling

Each day of the EGU General Assembly begins at 08:30 and ends at 20:00, is organised in time blocks (TBs), and includes a number of breaks. In 2019, the schedule will be as follows:

08:30-10:15	TB1: Posters, orals, PICOs
10:15-10:45	Coffee break
10:45-12:30	TB2: Posters, orals, PICOs
12:30-14:00	Lunch break
14:00-15:45	TB3: Posters, orals, PICOs
15:45–16:15	Coffee break
16:15–18:00	TB4: Posters, orals, PICOs
18:00-19:00	TB5: Networking, meet EGU, exhibition, and extra poster viewing
19:00-20:00	TB6: Townhalls, some medal lectures, some short courses, special events

Posters will remain hung during the entire day, with the official viewing and presenting time being the time when the corresponding poster session is scheduled. During breaks between TB1 & TB2 and TB3 & TB4, free tea and coffee will be available in the poster halls as well as in other selected coffee points around the conference centre. During TB5 beer and soft drinks will be available in the poster halls and exhibition areas. This dedicated networking slot will give attendees additional time to discuss and interact with colleagues, to view posters and to visit the exhibition. As in the past, townhall sessions will take place from 19:00 until 20:00, in TB6.

Sessions are designed to run concurrently, and rooms for sessions associated with the same programme group are, as much as possible, kept close together. With the exception of the medal lectures and other selected talks, each oral presentation is to be no longer than 15 minutes (including 3 minutes of questions). Posters are organised by session and posters for one programme group will be adjacent to each other. In addition, EGU keeps posters of related programme groups close to each other.

It is easy to get 'conference burnout' at the General Assembly so please take the time to visit posters and other events such as the photo competition. Medal lectures can be very interesting, even

if they are not in your field. If you feel overwhelmed, you can take some time out to explore the beautiful park behind the conference centre.

Presenting

Oral presentations

Full <u>guidelines for oral presentations</u> are available on the General Assembly website a few months before the meeting. Oral presentations are organised by session, as indicated in the programme. They are scheduled in specific lecture rooms together with the time of presentation. The various 15-minute-long oral presentations are scheduled in four time blocks per day, each of which is 105 minutes long. Please note that the duration of an oral presentation includes 3 minutes for questions and discussion, i.e. a 15-minute presentation should comprise of a 12-minute talk and 3 minutes of discussion and questions.

Since oral presentations are not organised centrally, authors are asked to upload their presentations in the relevant room at least 30 minutes before the start of the session. A lecture room assistant will be available to help with this. Each room has a laptop, projector and a microphone. Some rooms have a laser pointer. In the larger rooms you are asked to use the mouse to point at items in your slides to ensure that the pointer is visible from the back and (where applicable) on dual screens. Laptops provided have PowerPoint installed. It is strictly prohibited to take photos and/or copies from notebooks of any scientific material without permission from the authors.

Poster presentations

Full guidelines for poster presentations are available on the General Assembly website a few months before the meeting. The poster boards at the General Assembly are landscape and 197 cm wide x 100 cm high (e.g. landscape A0 posters as an often-used format fit perfectly). Posters should be put up between 08:00 and 08:30 in the morning: all the material necessary for attaching the poster to the poster board is available at the facility desks in the respective poster area. In addition, there are assistants to help authors in putting up or in taking down their posters. For each poster board, there is a desk for placing the private notebook/MacBook for additional PowerPoint or video presentations. European-type power sockets are available. You will be sent your poster location (e.g. XY0439) via email prior to the General Assembly and it will also be listed online in the session programme. You can find the exact location of your poster using the online floor plans (check the relevant section on the General Assembly website – link to 2019 floor plans not yet available at the time of writing). The attendance time should be sent to you prior to the event. Please retrieve your poster at the end of the day as those that are not collected will be disposed of.

PICO presentations

Full guidelines for PICO (Presenting Interactive COntent) presentations are available on the General Assembly website a few months before the meeting. PICO scientific sessions start with a series of 2-minute long presentations, one from each presenting author. They can feature traditional PowerPoint slides, a movie, an animation, or simply a PDF showing your research on a large screen. After the



Researchers discuss PICO presentations. (Credit: EGU/Foto Pfluegl)

2-minute talks, the audience can explore each presentation on touch screens, where authors are available to answer questions and discuss their research in more detail. Furthermore, the presentations remain available after the end of a PICO session and can be viewed on the touch screens throughout the day of the session. This gives the opportunity to later discuss your research with colleagues who were not able to attend your session. Find out more about PICO in 'PICO: the how-to guide to Presenting Interactive COntent'.

Union-wide and disciplinary sessions

There are several Union-wide sessions of particular interest to all conference participants at the General Assembly. The most important are:

- **Union Symposia (US)**: Union Symposia are Union-wide events of general appeal that generally last for two time blocks.
- **Great Debates (GDB):** Great Debates, which last for one time block, feature a panel of experts and stakeholders (ranging from academia to industry and interest groups) on a specific topic. The debates often start with short statements from the panellists, which are then debated. Questions from the audience are an integral part of the debates.
- **Medal Lectures (ML):** During the General Assembly scientists awarded Union and division medals and awards give Medal Lectures. These may take place during scientific sessions (for division medals) or at another time (such as TB5).

Also of highlight are the **Education and Outreach Sessions** (**EOS**). Sessions in the EOS programme group have a strong focus on educational initiatives and the successful communication of science to the public. In addition, sessions allow participants to learn how best to engage the public with their research and new ways of assessing the effectiveness of engagement techniques.

Some sessions at the Assembly relate to the running of the EGU, its divisions and its activities. These are public sessions the EGU membership is encouraged to attend to provide feedback to those who run the EGU. It also features networking events such as journal or ECS receptions. Of highlight are:

- **Plenary:** This is an annual event open to all EGU members where the past and future development of the EGU is discussed, normally at lunchtime on Monday. The whole EGU Council attends and it is the main meeting for putting new ideas forward to the organisation. Sandwiches and water are provided to participants.
- **Division Meetings (DM):** Division Meetings are where division-level items are discussed before being reported to the Council, with line with EGU's bottom-up structure. All are welcome to contribute to these meetings, where sandwiches are often available.
- **Meet EGU (EGU):** This is your opportunity to meet those involved in the running of the EGU. For up to one and half hours you'll have a chance to meet, chat with, and provide feedback to EGU division presidents, EGU Executive members, EGU journal editors, as well as to division and Union ECS representatives.

Other Union-wide sessions are:

• **Short Courses (SC):** These workshop-type sessions provide participants with the opportunity to learn about a new subject or further their knowledge in a particular area. These run

- for one or two time blocks. Some courses require contact with the convenors in advance, whereas others can be attended without prior notice.
- **Townhall and Splinter Meetings (TSM):** Townhall meetings are open to all participants, typically feature open discussion and participation from the audience, and take place from 19:00 to 20:00. Splinter meetings are side meetings (either public or by invitation only) that can be organised by participants during the course of the conference.

Inter- and Transdisciplinary Sessions (ITS)

Sessions in the ITS category tackle a common theme through an inter- and/or trans-disciplinary combination of approaches, aiming to foster cross-division links and collaborations. They were launched for the first time at the 2016 General Assembly. In 2019, there will be six ITS themes: 'History and philosophy of Earth, planetary and space sciences', 'Resources and the energy transition', 'Contributions of Earth, planetary and space sciences to changes in society', 'Scientific challenges posed by global warming', 'The Anthropocene' and 'Urban geoscience'. For more information, check the ITS guidelines online.

Disciplinary sessions

The vast majority of sessions at the EGU General Assembly are disciplinary sessions that give participants the opportunity to present and discuss their research with their peers. They cover the full spectrum of the geosciences and the space and planetary science and include oral, PICO and/or poster presentations.

Mentoring programme

EGU offers a mentoring programme for novice conference attendees, students, and early career scientists at its annual General Assembly, to facilitate new connections that may lead to long-term professional relationships within the Earth, planetary and space science communities. Registration to the programme usually opens in November of the year prior to the General Assembly and closes at the end of January.

Mentees are matched with a senior scientist (mentor) to help them navigate the conference, network with conference attendees, and exchange feedback and ideas on professional activities and career development. The EGU will match mentors and mentees prior to the conference, and is also organising meeting opportunities for those taking part in the mentoring programme.

For more information, and to sign up, check https://www.egu.eu/outreach/mentoring/.

Photo competition

Since 2010 there has been a photo competition open to all those pre-registered to the General Assembly. A call for entries goes out in mid or late January, with images being submitted to Imageo in the four weeks after. Photos can be on any broad theme related to the Earth and space sciences. Each pre-registered participant can submit up to three photos and one moving image.

If you submit your images to the EGU Photo Contest, you also are submitting the photos to the EGU's image repository, Imaggeo. Being open access (see the <u>copyright information online</u>), it can be used by scientists for their presentations or publications, and more, provided the photographer

is credited. You retain full rights of use as your uploaded image is licensed and distributed by EGU <u>under a Creative Commons</u> licence.

Shortlisted photos are exhibited at the EGU General Assembly, where participants vote for their favourites. The winners are announced on the Friday of the General Assembly. Further information and previous winners can be viewed online at Imaggeo. The winning images are turned into postcards that are distributed at the next General Assembly.



One of the EGU 2018 Photo Competition winning photos: 'Remains of a former ocean floor' by Jana Eichel, distributed via imaggeo.egu.eu.

Travel and accommodation

Food and drink

In addition to the complimentary refreshments provided during the breaks, there are various food and drink outlets within the conference venue. There are also bakeries, cafes, restaurants and a supermarket in close vicinity to the meeting venue.

Accommodation

Information on accommodation options can be found on the <u>accommodation page</u> of the General Assembly website. Please note Mondial Congress and Events cannot guarantee accommodation after a certain date. Other accommodation options are:

- http://www.jugendherberge.at
- http://www.hotelscombined.com
- http://viennacityflats.at/en/
- http://www.govienna.net
- https://www.apartment.at/listings
- https://www.airbnb.com/s/Vienna--Austria

This is not an exhaustive list: you can also consider other hotel booking websites such as hotels. com, kayak.com and expedia.com. When booking accommodation bear in mind that you will have a Vienna travel card for Monday–Friday, which covers the city area public transport.

Please note that the Vienna City Marathon (40,000 participants) will take place in Vienna on Sunday, 7 April 2019, resulting in many hotels being fully booked the night before. Therefore, we strongly recommend booking accommodation as soon as possible.

Getting to Vienna

Vienna's International <u>Airport</u> is served by many of the major European airlines and is 19 kilometres from the city centre. You can go from the Airport to the city using the <u>City Airport Train (CAT)</u>, <u>suburban railway</u>, <u>buses</u>, or a <u>taxi</u>. The CAT takes 16 minutes from Airport to Wien Mitte and fares start at €11 for a single ticket. Trains leave every 30 minutes. The S-bahn (S7) takes 25 minutes

from the Airport to various stations in Vienna centre: Rennweg (change for Sudbahnhof), Mitte, Praterstern, Traisengasse, Handelskai and Floridsdorf. A timetable is available online with trains leaving approximately every 30 minutes and fares are from €4.10. There are various bus connections from the airport to the city, that take 20 minutes. Buses go through the night and cost from €8 for a single ticket. Taxis are also available at the airport.

We strongly encourage General Assembly participants to choose, whenever possible, a low-carbon option to travel to the EGU meeting. Please see the section below for overland travel options.

Overland travel

For those of you who are interested in car-pooling, the e-carpool site (www.e-carpool.eu) is useful and available in multiple languages, as is bla bla car (https://www.blablacar.com/).

Travel from the UK

<u>The Man in Seat 61 website</u> is comprehensive and up-to-date, listing four different major paths one can take from London to Vienna by train, and one for train plus ferry (via Harwich & Hoek van Holland). See <u>this link</u> for prices and more information. If you prefer taking the bus, a few <u>bus companies</u> offer coach services from London to Vienna at affordable prices, taking about 23 hours one-way.

Travel from Germany

From Cologne, Bonn, and Frankfurt there is a night train that arrives at 9:00 in the morning. All information on train travel from Germany to Vienna is available from www.bahn.de. There are regular trains between Munich and Vienna, each taking around 4 hours. Another option is taking the bus.

Travel from northern Europe

From northern Europe, it takes over a day to reach Vienna. From most of Denmark and the region around Malmö (Sweden), it is possible to travel to Vienna on a very long day. The fastest alternatives include a night train, such as the Austrian night train from Hamburg to Vienna. Check The Man in Seat 61 website for more information and routes from Copenhagen to Vienna, from Olso or from Stockholm.

Travel from anywhere in Europe

For European residents, the most economical alternative is usually an InterRail ticket. On an InterRail <u>Global Pass</u>, you can travel on trains unlimited for 5 days within a 15-day period. For more information on InterRail see <u>www.interrail.eu</u>. For route options, check <u>The Man in Seat 61 website</u>.

Please also check train prices on the websites of national train railways, including the Austrian <u>ÖBB</u> or the Swiss <u>SBB</u>. SBB offered discounts to EGU 2018 General Assembly participants travelling on selected routes: keep an eye out on the EGU General Assembly 2019 website over the next few months for information on 2019 discounts.

Getting to the conference centre

The <u>Austria Center Vienna (ACV)</u> is the event venue and is located next to the 'Kaisermühlen-VIC' station on the subway line U1, which runs from the city centre (Stephansplatz) to Leopoldau: see image on the next page. On Wiener Linien, Vienna's main transport website, you can find <u>plans for public transport in Vienna</u> and a <u>travel planner</u>.



The Austria Center Vienna is also reachable via the <u>Airport Bus</u> running to the station 'Wien Kaisermühlen/VIC' close to the ACV.

Things to do in Vienna

The Vienna tourist board has information about sightseeing, shows, shopping, dining and other information about Vienna on its website. A fairly comprehensive list of the museums in Vienna can be found on the Tour My Country website. Towards the end of the week of the General Assembly, the EGU communications team also prepare a blog post with things to do in Vienna over the weekend. Keep an eye on the EGU blog for the 2019 post.

Tourist information on Vienna can be found in the Arrivals Hall of Vienna International Airport or at the Tourist Information Centre (Vienna 1) at Albertinaplatz/Maysedergasse, behind the Vienna State Opera (open daily from 09:00– 19:00). Brochures can be ordered in advance from your local Austrian Tourist Office.

More information

- EGU General Assembly 2019 website
- EGU website
- EGU blog, GeoLog
- 'EGU 2018: Experience of a first time attendee', on the EGU Geodynamics Division blog

This guide was first compiled by Jennifer Holden (former EGU Postdoctoral Fellow) in 2011, and has since been updated by Sara Mynott and Laura Roberts (former EGU communications officers), Olivia Trani (EGU Communications Officer) and Bárbara Ferreira (EGU Media and Communications Manager).

Last updated in November 2018.