

Name: John Kealy M.Sc.

Degree(s): B.Sc. (NUIG) M.Sc. (UCD)

Current Job: PhD Student

Current University: University of Hawaii at Manoa

I enrolled in the M.Sc. program at UCD slightly apprehensively, having no clue about meteorology, but it turned out great. The course starts from the beginning, and takes quite a straight road to meteorological proficiency. There were three main lecturers, all with their own style. They were great at helping us look at the subject from different perspectives. The course started off with 'Dynamic Meteorology', a real test of maths skills but Prof Bates, our lecturer, was the one who discovered some of the things we learned about! 'Physical meteorology' answered many questions that one encounters in every day life, that maybe you never thought about. Did you know that your ears pop in an airplane because it's just cheaper for the airline that way? Some of what our atmosphere can do is simply amazing and is taught in both a qualitative and a mathematical way.

We had climate dynamics in the second semester. For most of my classmates, (myself included) it was a favourite course. It's surprising how complex and sensitive the climate system is, and the course was extremely up to date. For anyone interested in climate change, a lot of questions will be answered. In the numerical weather prediction course, you get a taste of modelling the atmosphere, a process that I still find extremely impressive.

The best thing about the course was its diversity, providing a stepping stone to forecasting, research, further study or whatever is desired. For instance, I enjoyed the forecasting course, and I did my thesis on climatology, but in the end I chose a physical meteorology angle.

I'm currently pursuing a PhD in cloud modelling at the University of Hawaii. I'll hopefully be contributing to our understanding of clouds and integrating that understanding into the weather models. I'm excited about making advances in the field in future years, and seeing where meteorology can take me.

I give my permission for my testimonial and photograph to be used online and in promotional literature for the School of Mathematical Sciences and UCD.

John Kealy