

**Name: Jonathan McGovern**

**Degree(s): MSc Meteorology**

**Current Job: PhD postgraduate research student**

**Current University: Swansea University, UK**

I did the MSc in Meteorology, within the school of Mathematical Sciences at UCD after a degree in physics from Trinity College. The course gave a good theoretical and practical foundation in different areas of Meteorology. The dynamical, physical, numerical weather prediction and climate theoretical modules were complemented by a synoptic meteorology session.

During an intensive forecasting week, real weather charts were analysed in many different types of ways, putting theory into practise, and had to give a weather report at the end of the week. A trip to Valentia Observatory gave an opportunity to launch a radiosonde and to see a weather station. The research projects can cover any aspect of meteorology that one finds interesting; mine was on the regional local winds of the Mediterranean sea.

I have just started my second year of PhD in ice sheet modelling, at Swansea University. More specifically I am working on the sensitivities of Greenland ice sheet models to their boundary conditions. I am working in the GLIMPSE research group which looks at the stability of the ice sheet. Even though the course in UCD is not directly related to the cryosphere, I apply the theoretical modelling and climate knowledge I gained, to the cryosphere.

My first year of PhD gave me a fantastic opportunity to spend some time in Svalbard, in the Arctic. A PhD requires motivation but can be very rewarding: since I have started, the route of my research has changed a number of times. At present I do not have concrete results but am also working in collaboration with a researcher at MIT.

I enjoyed the course and my time at UCD. There was a good atmosphere within the group and with the members of staff.