WCRPNEWS
World Climate Research Programme

Students Thank WCRP for Supporting their Participation to the EUCLIPSE Summer School 2013

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Surrounded by the beauty of the French Alps, the EUCLIPSE Summer School hosted for two weeks of the summer 2013, about 54 students worldwide (for more information please visit http://www.euclipse.eu/summerschool/index.html). EUCLIPSE (European Union Cloud Inetrcomparison, Process Study and Evaluation Project) is an international effort, funded by the Framework 7 of the European Union, designed to improve the evaluation, understanding and description of the role of clouds in the Earth's climate (http://www.euclipse.eu/index.html). The 2-week summerschool provided an up to date overview of the scientific knowledge of all the relevant cloud processes and how they are affected in a future climate, from theoretical, observational and modeling perspectives.

WCRP acknowledged the relevance of this initiative by sponsoring the participation of several students who reported on their experience as follow:
"Over the two week course we all feel we have developed as atmospheric scientists through the inspiring lectures, thought provoking debates and meeting many great like-minded people from all across the world – there were representatives from every continent (except Antarctica!) and several of us from farthest afield were only able to attend with your support. The overarching theme of the course was the importance of a fundamental understanding of our climate and to not be afraid of a back-to-basics approach in solving complex problems. In addition to the expert lectures in the different areas that constitute the building blocks of our atmosphere, during the school the students were assigned 'super problems' to solve in groups. Science can be a solitary pursuit, and these tasks reminded us of the benefits of sharing ideas

and collaborating when challenged to communicate difficult concepts. At first the problems seemed abstract: one example was 'what would happen if the Earth did not rotate?'. But the longer we thought about the problems, the more ideas we generated as a group. Further, it was good training to consider how our climate system would change in a given condition without the aid of a numerical model. Such an experience accelerates analysis and understanding of the results from complex climate models.
Finally, the Summer school provided an opportunity to reflect on what we would like to do in the future. In a panel discussion the senior lecturers answered questions on their own career paths, work-life balance and how to quantify success in science. Whilst making a career from science will not necessarily be easy, we each left the Summer school excited for the future and possibly a little more prepared to solve the problems and challenges that it will bring. We hope that in the future, using the skills we developed at the Summer School, we will be able to contribute back to the scientific community and society in general"