

Conference of Physics and Astronomy Students

The conference of Physics and Astronomy Students (CAPS) is an annual student run conference of Physics which is hosted at different universities across the UK every year. I have attended CAPS previously when it was hosted in Scotland in the beautiful city of Glasgow but this year it was even better. Hosted at Northumbria University, in the city of Newcastle, CAPS was a four-day event that I will remember for many years to come.



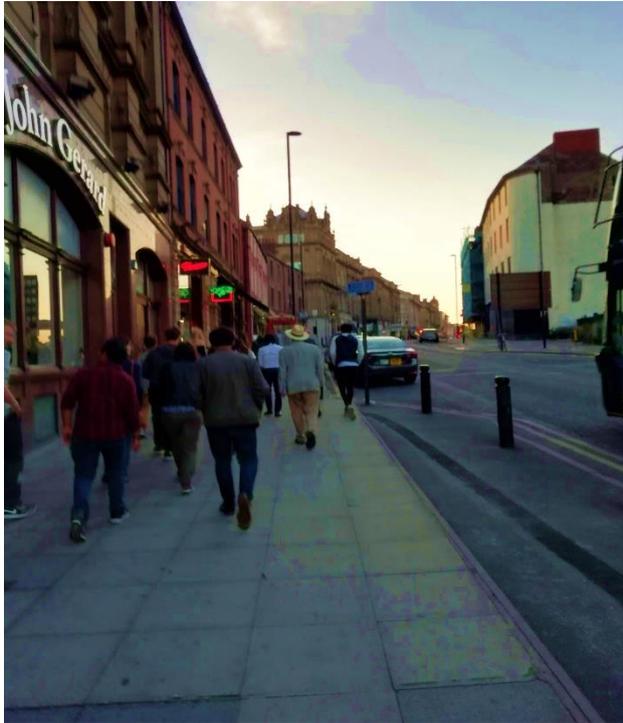
It began with an introduction by the CAPS committee followed by settling down in our rooms. The first event of the day was an evening dinner run by the university to welcome the students from around the country. The formal dinner was an excellent opportunity to wear your best attire and talk with students from around the country and share ideas. It was a great opportunity to network with peers and exchange knowledge of ideas, whether it was Physics ideas or general ideas in life.

The committee had planned an excellent day one event, and everyone went home that evening excited for the days to come.

My presentation was scheduled for day two of the conference. I gave a talk about the perception of pain and the quantification of pain threshold. It was an excellent opportunity to practise public speaking and articulation of speech. My talk was followed by many questions from my peers which not only helped me to explain concepts even more in detail, but it was an way of solidifying my own understanding of key concepts explained in my presentation. This presentation prepped me for my final year of Physics where I will be tested on my oral presentation skills and a majority of the grade will depend on my clarity in speech and PowerPoint.

Also, once my presentation was complete, I had the opportunity to watch other students give their presentations and ask them questions. This was great as a learning tool. It allowed me the opportunity to reflect on how I can make my own presentation better next time by looking at what works and what does not work with an audience. At the end of the presentations, there were poster sessions and students presented their poster work to peers. This was a different method of presenting as it was more personal, and students can directly hear from the presenters what they have been working on and clarify the more complex details on a one to one basis.

The following day was packed with many activities including Physics laboratory tours and tours of the city. Newcastle is vibrant and beautiful city with a rich culture and many historical sites.



CAPS 2018 was a fantastic trip as it not only was a way of expanding on current knowledge of

Physics, but it was also a way of finding out where your degree can take you. There were many workshops on careers in Physics as well as opportunities to work with the institute of Physics and boost your CV before you graduate. CAPS was also a place to present your hard work and most importantly, to network and have fun exploring a new city with new people from all over the country.