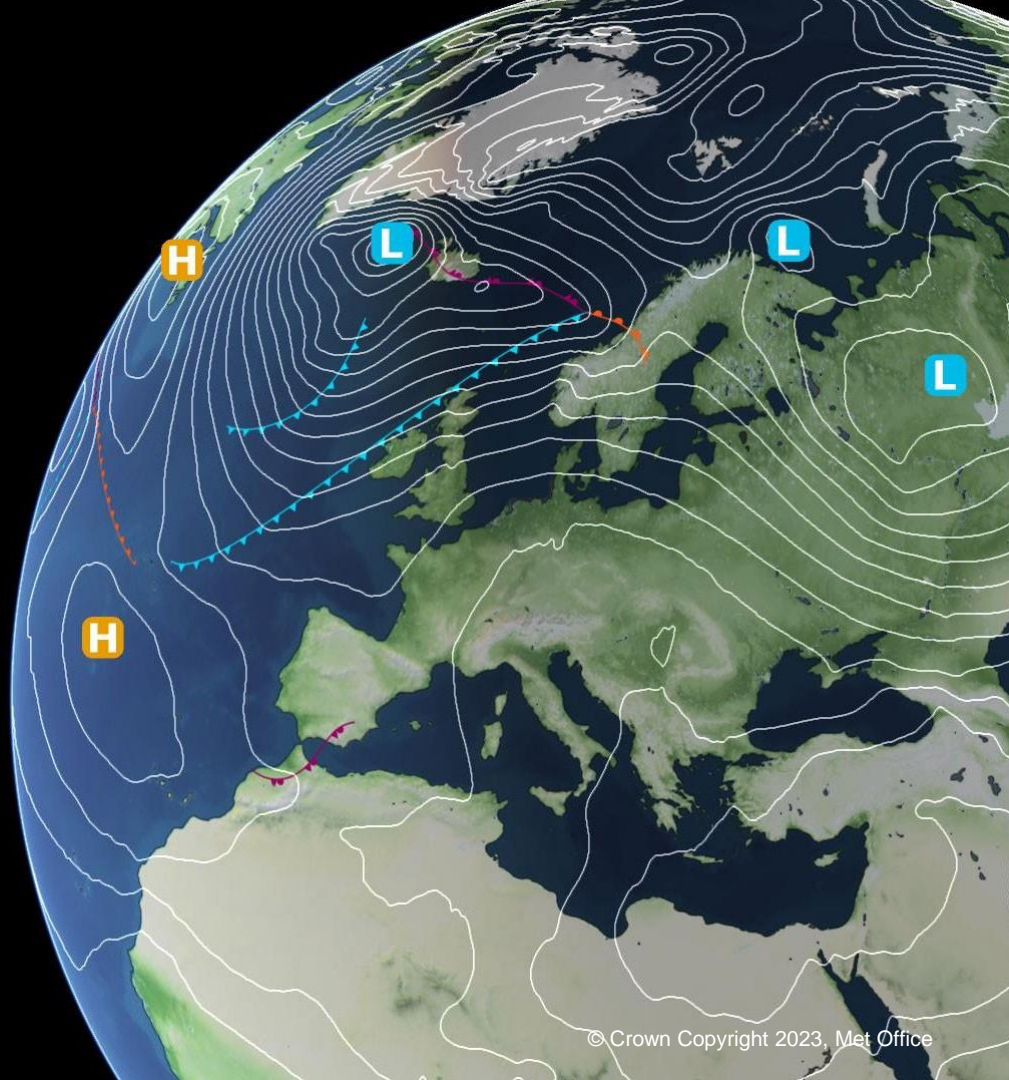


# E4 DTP careers event

Non-academic careers – Alex Priestley



# Met Office My PhD – snow hydrology models and geophysics

- Mixture of field and lab work, and computer modelling
- Undergraduate teaching and fieldwork demonstrating
- Internships at Scottish Parliament and RSPB
- Overseas research visit to Meteo France, Grenoble
- Talks at EGU and AGU (online, thanks COVID ☹️)
- Possibly some skiing in the French Alps...



Towards the development of an automated electrical self-potential sensor of melt and rainwater flow in snow

# My current roles at the Met Office

'Learning Consultant' – civil service speak for trainer – 30%

- Designing and delivering meteorology training to internal and external customers

European Composite Observing System (EUCOS) Network Manager – 70%

- Working on behalf of the 31 Member states of EUMETNET to manage, develop and report on the observations network for users, such as weather modelling centres
- Supporting scientific expert teams and R&D studies funded by EUMETNET



# How did PhD experience and skills help me get these roles?

- Undergrad teaching, project management, international collaboration, programming, presentations, report writing...
- Funded internships were a fantastic opportunity to get good experience
- Fieldwork trials and tribulations make excellent interview material!
- Recruiting managers were interested in my PhD project, but they were far more interested in the broad skills and experience it had given me

# Skills from my PhD I use in my roles

Often not knowledge specific to my PhD project, but the general ones like:

- Researching a topic quickly
- Communicating complex information to non-specialists
- Writing, editing and peer-reviewing
- Programming (Python generally)
- Grappling with awful HR/finance systems...
- Statistical analysis

All applied to a wide range of technical scientific topics which I need to be able to take a high-level view of, but I'm certainly no expert in!

# Skills I'm still working on

- Legal, financial and procurement for administration of international R&D studies
- Improving my IT skills to use cloud-based servers for data analysis, report generation and monitoring

# What would I have wanted to know while doing my PhD?

- How lucky I was!
- Take lots of the opportunities the DTP and wider PhD experience give you, especially in the first couple of years
- Don't worry about your specific project too much, you'll end up a jack-of-all-trades and a master of at least one without even noticing!
- The skills you gain during a PhD are not 'entry level', so apply for more senior jobs! The worst they can say is no...

# Careers at the Met Office

[www.metoffice.gov.uk/about-us/careers/vacancies](http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/about-us/careers/vacancies)

- Slow but steady recruitment of science and software engineer staff
- Recruitment uses 'competency-based' assessment, and often requires a presentation and/or technical test at interview
- I genuinely recommend a practice interview with the uni careers service, it got me my first job!



# Any questions?

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