

Technical Report: 2023 Glacial Isostatic Adjustment (GIA) Training School

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Role of IUGG funds:

Funding from IUGG supported the travel and lodging of 5 graduate students to attend the 2023 GIA training School in Gävle, Sweden between July 3rd and 7th.

Organizers:

Holger Steffen (Lantmäteriet, Sweden)

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Project Summary:

The 2023 GIA training school was held from July 3rd-7th at Lantmäteriet in Gävle, Sweden. The school was targeted at early career researchers desiring to implement GIA modeling into their own research and provide students with the opportunity to interact with leading researchers. The 5-day school consisted of lectures and hands-on exercises (e.g., GIA modeling, ice sheet modeling, and adjoint methods in GIA) incorporating cutting-edge research topics that leveraged the experience and knowledge of 17 leading scientists in the interdisciplinary field of GIA. In person participation included 40 students from 20 different countries, whose travel and lodging were fully funded by support from US National Science foundation (Students at US institutions) and international partners (e.g., SCAR, IUGG, etc.) In addition, a virtual option was offered to reach a large pool of early career researchers. Lectures were recorded and posted on the training school website (<https://polenet.org/2023-gia-training-school/>) and have already collected hundreds of views in the short weeks that have followed since the school completed. Course materials will remain publicly available on the polenet.org website for continued use by the global research community.

The training school was overwhelmingly successful. The number of enrollment applications exceeded all previous schools, with more than 180 applicants from 52 countries. In post-workshop surveys, 100% of participants stated they would recommend the lectures to their colleagues or fellow students, and many of the free-text comments praised the unique opportunity to interact with international experts as well as course participants from around the world. The overwhelming interest in the school and the successful outcomes for participants demonstrate a strong demand for this type of resource as a pathway for early career researchers to pursue the highly complex and multidisciplinary field of GIA modeling.

Project Deliverables:

Deliverables from the 2023 GIA training school include:

1. A collection of recorded lectures as well as a TV and news article about the training school. Links to these items can be found at: <https://polenet.org/2023-gia-training-school/>
2. Post-workshop surveys, which are provide in the accompanying document, 2023_GIA_training_school_survey.pdf
3. An EOS article describing the GIA training school and its impact: <https://eos.org/features/getting-schooled-in-complex-earth-system-modeling>

Recommendations:

1. Based on the overwhelming positive feedback we recommend the continued support of the GIA training school, which typically repeats every 4 years.
2. While post-school surveys are very positive, student feedback suggests that improvements to the training school can be made by providing additional time for the hands-on exercises. This additional time could be achieved by extending the duration of the school.