

# TRAINING DAYS

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LATEST EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION ON TRAINING COURSES, DISTANCE LEARNING, COMPANY TRAINING DAYS, SEMINARS, AND WORKSHOPS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE. THIS SECTION WILL ALSO INCLUDE COMPETITIONS, AND STUDENT OFFERS AMONG OTHER EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES

## GAIN THE SKILLS YOU NEED IN GEOSTATISTICS TO PRODUCE SUPERIOR MAPPING

Geovariances, the world leader in the application of geostatistics for the past 25 years, offers a complete set of public or in-house high quality training programs in geostatistics for beginners and geostatistics specialists around the world, and based on its software solution ISATIS®.

**Training course: Geostatistics for Reliable Mapping (3 days) - Start dates: 10 Oct. 2011 (English sessions) – 6 June / 3 Oct. 2011 (French sessions).**

**More information at <http://www.geovariances.com/en/environment-geostatistics-for-reliable-mapping-co104>.**



## LeGIO WORKSHOP

The Leuven Sustainable Earth Research Centre (LSUE) and the Raymond Lemaire International Centre for Conservation (RLICC) are holding an international one-day workshop on 'GIS-education in a changing academic environment'.

To be held in Leuven, Belgium, on 18 November, the English-language event is organised by the educational innovation project LeGIO (Leuven Geographic Information

Distance Education) supported by the K.U.Leuven office for educational affairs and two LSUE-members, i.e. SADL/BNL and RLICC. The intention is to create opportunities to exchange experiences and ideas about established and new ways of GIS-education, discuss teaching and learning methods, and pave the way for future GIS-educational activities.

Further details at:

<http://ees.kuleuven.be/legio/>



To include your Company Seminar/Training dates, or University Courses in this section, please ring:

Micki: + 44 (0) 01638 732566

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## IN THE SPOTLIGHT: IONA GERRARD

Iona Gerrard from Fife Council has become a GIS expert over the last 6 months, providing invaluable skills and resources in using the ArcGIS software to her Business Development Team. She has achieved this by using the learning on-demand approach provided by GIS247.

Already an existing ArcGIS user, Iona broadened and deepened her knowledge by developing additional skills and gained more experience by following eight comprehensive training courses.

The flexible nature of GIS247 meant that Iona could access the e-learning whenever she wanted. She put aside a few hours each week. As GIS247's Learning Management System keeps track of each users' progress it was really easy for her to simply carry on from where she got to. "When I did some training I just popped my headphones on and I got on with it."

Iona submitted an assessment for each courses and gained distinction in them all. "This is an incredible achievement," says GIS247 Training Manager, Debbie Soloman. "The assessments are rigorous and users must prove their competence to gain a certificate let alone a distinction."

Iona has undoubtedly increased her value to her team. Due to her new expertise she is now working on a complex corporate address gazetteer improvement project as well as providing useful technical support to her immediate colleagues. Iona is enjoying the new challenge, "A lot of the tips that I learnt on the training courses are turning out to be very useful. I am really pleased that I am able to assist my colleagues and provide more technical resources for my team."

For the full story about Iona's experience, visit [www.gis247.com/testimonial](http://www.gis247.com/testimonial)



## ■ Geographic Information Systems

### Study for the award of Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma or MSc through online distance learning

This programme is designed to provide an advanced education in the principles and practice of GIS. The PgDip comprises eight taught modules, which include material on data models, sources and quality, data management including database technology, programming and GIS functionality and analysis of spatial data (including vector, raster and image data) as well as broader issues relating to the role and implementation of GIS. Theoretical material is introduced in online lectures and reinforced by directed reading and practical exercises, through which students gain extensive hands-on experience of key GIS packages and other analytical software (including ArcGIS, Erdas Imagine, Access and SPSS), developing technical expertise in managing, manipulating and analysing data. Optional modules are available in environmental and health-related applications of GIS, customisation of GIS and work-based projects. For the award of MSc the student must undertake an independent research project, submitted as a written dissertation, in addition to the eight taught modules.

#### Key Features

- delivers all course material via the Internet;
- gives you flexibility of time and workload;
- takes one year for the PG Certificate, two years for the PG Diploma and a further year for the MSc.

The programme enrolls two intakes per year; the next available start dates are 26th September 2011 and 30th January 2012  
Applications should be submitted at least one month prior to these dates.

Further details regarding the programme may be obtained from:

**Dr Sally Cook, Course Director, School of Environmental Sciences, University of Ulster, Cromore Road, Coleraine, BT52 1SA, Northern Ireland.**

**t: +44 (0)28 7012 4401 or e: [s.cook@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:s.cook@ulster.ac.uk)**

For further information, visit: <http://www.ulster.ac.uk/es>

# UNIGIS

## Study for a postgraduate qualification in GIS by distance learning

UNIGIS is a partnership between Huddersfield, Manchester Metropolitan and Salford universities that delivers postgraduate GIS courses by distance learning. With over twenty years experience, and as a founder member of the prestigious UNIGIS International network, we provide high quality courses that meet the requirements of busy GI professionals and of those seeking to enter the GIS industry.

Our courses can be completed entirely by distance learning, although we also offer optional residential workshops. Assessment is by coursework only - there are no examinations. We support you with personal tutors, online help and a dedicated UNIGIS office.



#### WE OFFER:

- Flexible entry requirements
- Specialist pathways
- Course modules supported by key textbooks, software and on-line resources
- Flexible study - distance learning plus optional residential workshops
- No examinations - full continuous assessment, plus credit for prior learning or experience
- Networking with an international community of GIS professionals

Find out why the UNIGIS postgraduate courses are so successful:  
call +44 161 247 1581, fax. +44 161 247 6344, email [unigis@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:unigis@mmu.ac.uk),  
or visit our web site at <http://www.unigis.org/uk>



Educating GIS Professionals Worldwide

[www.unigis.org/uk](http://www.unigis.org/uk)

### ESRI SITE LICENSE FOR UNIVERSITY CONSORTIUM

Thanks to a comprehensive three-year educational site license agreement, a university consortium in Finland has simplified previous arrangements whereby the 16 participating universities had a total of 49 separate licenses with Esri.

"The limited number of licenses under the previous agreement caused many bottlenecks," says Kimmo Koivunen, development manager at IT Center for Science (CSC), which administers the GIS licenses on behalf of the Ministry of Education and Culture. "This limitation (had) a severe impact on expanding the use of GIS on campus. With this new site license, we can now extend the use of the full suite of ArcGIS products across the entire consortium of universities."

[www.esri.com/university](http://www.esri.com/university)

### ACTION PLAN FOR GEOGRAPHY FINAL REPORT

In March 2006 Lord Adonis, the Schools Minister, and Michael Palin announced an Action Plan for Geography (APG) for British schools. The APG began as a two-year programme of support and development led jointly and equally by the Geographical Association and the Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers). Funding for a further three years was announced in April 2008. A Final Report and Evaluation of this programme has now been published and can be downloaded in pdf format from: [www.geography.org.uk/download/GA\\_APGFinalReportGARGSIBG.pdf](http://www.geography.org.uk/download/GA_APGFinalReportGARGSIBG.pdf)



Photo: Ruth Totterdell



## PARTNERSHIP BOOST FOR R&D

The University of Birmingham in England (pictured above) has set up the not-for-profit Poynting Institute which aims to generate novel and innovative solutions to real world problems for both industry and government. The first partner is the high tech science, technology and engineering company, QinetiQ, whose employees are being seconded to work with University scientists and engineers on the first two research themes: space weather and autonomy.

Space weather can affect a number of high tech systems including wireless systems, power lines and satellites as well as, for example, the global positioning system (GPS). The Poynting team is exploring techniques to mitigate wireless signal distortion introduced by space weather. The autonomy researchers are exploring autonomous robots and vehicles for a wide range of air and land applications.

[www.birmingham.ac.uk](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk)

### CLARK LABS AND UNIGIS RENEW ACCORD

Clark Labs at Clark University, developers of the IDRISI GIS and Image Processing software, has announced its continued partnership with UNIGIS International to provide students with access to GIS technology.

UNIGIS, which offers postgraduate Geographic Information Science and Technology education via open and distance learning, began as a collaborative exercise between three universities in the Manchester area of England, together with the University of Salzburg and the Free University of Amsterdam in 1993.

The partnership between UNIGIS and Clark Labs started soon after and included software procurement, research collaborations and educational initiatives.

"Our relationship to UNIGIS is based on a mutual commitment to accessible education," indicated James Toledano, Executive Director of Clark Labs. "The success of this relationship has certainly furthered our establishment of similar agreements with other academic institutions."

[www.clarklabs.org](http://www.clarklabs.org) / [www.unigis.net](http://www.unigis.net)

### BENTLEY STUDENT DESIGN COMPETITION

Bentley Systems has announced the winners in the 2011 Bentley Student Design Competition. The competition awards technically-advanced projects created using Bentley software by university, high school, and middle school students around the world. It also recognises the achievements of their educators and mentors. The program fosters interest and growth in the AEC, geospatial, and operations professions by encouraging

students to explore the software and hone the skills they'll need as future infrastructure practitioners. The Educator of the Year award recognises a member of the academic community who has an outstanding record of achievement and is committed to inspiring students to pursue careers in the infrastructure professions. For full details of this year's awards, visit:

[www.bentley.com/studentdesignwinners](http://www.bentley.com/studentdesignwinners)