

“ASB3: The Living Universe”
3rd Conference of the Astrobiology Society of Britain,
July 1 – 4, 2008

The third conference of the Astrobiology Society of Britain will take place at the University of Glamorgan from July 1st to 4th, 2008.

Topics covered

Astrobiology is a multidisciplinary topic that brings together many branches of science. This will cover all aspects of research related to astrobiology, including (but not exclusively):

Astronomy ▪ Astrochemistry ▪ Astrobiology Technology ▪ Biology ▪ Development of Life-Forms in Other Environments ▪ Exoplanets ▪ Extremophiles ▪ Geomicrobiology ▪ Humans in Space ▪ Life’s Origins ▪ Mars ▪ Meteorites ▪ Microbial Communities ▪ Panspermia ▪ Planetary Protection ▪ Prebiotic Climates ▪ Public Engagement

Papers are solicited on all these and related topics

Conference Dates

Arrival and Registration will be during the afternoon of Tuesday 1st July, 2008. The conference sessions will take place on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 2nd to 4th July

The schedule is:

Tuesday 1st July: Registration and Ice Breaker social event late afternoon.

Wednesday to Friday: Conference sessions

There will be a conference dinner on Thursday 3rd July. This is included in the Registration fee.

The last session will finish on the afternoon of Friday 4th July, with departures that afternoon.

Deadlines

Date for submission of abstracts April 4, 2008

Date for Early Bird registration May 9, 2008

Conference dates July 1-4, 2008

Abstract booklet

A booklet of all abstracts will be produced and distributed at the meeting.

Abstract Submission

Details of abstract submission will be on the website shortly. Abstracts for both talks and posters will be welcome. Talk length: most talks will last 12 minutes with some (short) time for questions after each talk. It is proposed that a few talks will last 25 minutes. These longer talks will be selected by the Organising Committee

It is planned to produce conference proceedings with the International Journal of Astrobiology.

Registration fee

There will be a Registration fee. The fee will include daytime meals on conference days plus the conference dinner

The conference fee will be £140 if paid in advance before 1st May 2008. Those who register after 1st May 2008 will pay a fee of £150. There is a discounted rate for students of £90 (before 1st May 2008) or £100 for those registering after 1st May 2008

Attendance at the conference will confer two years membership of the Society

It may be possible to offer scholarships to students, or other support for a limited number of attendees, to help subsidise their attendance. Watch for further announcements and fill in the appropriate section of the registration form.

Note: The registration fee does not cover accommodation

Traveling and Accommodation

The conference will take place at the ATRiuM (Cardiff) campus of the University of Glamorgan.

More details (including a flythrough) about the ATRiuM can be found here:

<http://cci.glam.ac.uk/slideshow/>

<http://cci.glam.ac.uk/flythrough/>

Room venues will be announced closer to the conference date

Cardiff is blessed with a wide range of accommodation from cheap and cheerful B&Bs to the Cardiff Hilton. Delegate accommodation would be a matter of choice, ranging from £37.50 per night at The Angel Hotel to £95 a night at the more luxurious Hilton. As can be seen (<http://www.visitcardiff.com/Accommodation-in-Cardiff.html>) most hotels and B&Bs are only a five-minute walk from the ATRiuM. Cardiff Central train station is also very close. Attendees are responsible for these accommodation costs and payment has to be made direct to the provider

About Cardiff

Lively, elegant, confident, cosmopolitan, Cardiff caters for all tastes, offering everything from the excitement of a vibrant city life to the peace and tranquillity of the nearby coast and countryside

As the capital city of Wales it is home to many national institutions including the National Museum of Wales and the much-admired Millennium Stadium. Cardiff is well established as 'Europe's Youngest Capital' but its history dates back more than 2000 years to the Romans. It was once one of the busiest ports in the world, exporting the coal that fuelled the industrial revolution

Cardiff is an extremely accessible city, benefiting from excellent road, rail and air communications. Using the hourly high-speed train service, London is reached within two hours

Prizes

At the Conference dinner, the Society will award the Society Prize for an outstanding contribution to Astrobiology in the United Kingdom. Details will be given in the 2nd Announcement, of how to nominate people for this prize, along with the selection method. There will also be poster prizes awarded at the Conference for best posters displayed at the meeting

Organising Institutions

'ASB3: The Living Universe' is organised by the University of Glamorgan's Centre for Astronomy and Science Education (CASE) and Cardiff University's Cardiff Centre for Astrobiology (CCA). Both centres are dynamic groups whose interests span both teaching and research in astrobiology

CASE's activities include not only running the UK's only astrobiology undergraduate degree, but also the science communication elements of astrobiology with members on NASA's Astrobiology Institute's science communication group. CCA operates a substantial research program with internationally recognised contributions to many peer reviewed journals, as well as contributions to media-led explorations in astrobiology

Organising Committee

The Chair of the Conference Organising Committee is Professor Mark Brake from the University of Glamorgan. The Co-ordinator is Lee Pullen, and Mark Burchell is the Conference Advisor

General Enquiries:

Academic enquiries to lpullen@glam.ac.uk.

Logistical enquiries to gjones6@glam.ac.uk.

Please include Astrobiology 2008 in your email header.

