

Building Recognition, Trust and Confidence through Good Practice: An Example from the Research Ireland Centre for Applied Geosciences (iCRAG)

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In a time where geoscience is actively being defunded, building recognition, trust and confidence through the good practice of geoscience research centres has never been more important.

The Research Ireland Centre for Applied Geoscience (iCRAG), is now widely recognised worldwide as a Centre for geoscience research by both academic and industry partners. It is a successful and impactful centre, hosted by University College Dublin, and comprises a multidisciplinary group of over 150 researchers across eleven institutions. As a co-funded Centre it is successfully delivering cutting-edge applied and fundamental research, and navigated multiple stakeholders and often competing or conflicting priorities.

iCRAG places strong value on the increased level of impact and engagement its researchers enjoy as a result of their association with the Centre. This is largely due to the unique Centre Operations who ensure compliance to national and international standards and policies, and create an inclusive and supportive environment for researchers to foster interdisciplinary project ideation and collaborative approaches.

Following the AGI Guidelines for Ethical Professional Conduct guidelines, to which SEG along with over 30 professional organisations are signatories, we will demonstrate how the Centre's practice adheres to these recommendations. We will demonstrate how iCRAG provides supporting frameworks and pathways that benefit the individuals, partners and the organisation. We will further elucidate how building culture reinforces trust and confidence; internally, with research partners, and the broader public. Viewing iCRAG as a segment of the broader geoscience ecosystem in Ireland, Europe and globally, we will demonstrate how research centres, and iCRAG specifically, are an integral part of this ecosystem bridging the gap between traditional academia and industry.