

Kevin Cunningham  
International Travel Award  
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### Trip to Applied Reconfigurable Computing Conference in Belfast, UK

With the help of the International Travel Award, I was able to travel to Belfast, UK to attend the Applied Reconfigurable Computing (ARC) Conference at Queen's University of Belfast during March 23-25, 2011. This trip was both my first academic conference and my first opportunity to travel internationally. The conference was small, yet drew attendance from many different countries. At the conference, I was able to interact with people from the UK, Ireland, Germany, France, China, Japan, and many other countries. With the small conference environment, I had the opportunity to see and learn about everyone's research by watching presentations and speaking with researchers during poster sessions. Through interactions at the conference, I was able to make research connections with people from other countries and companies in my field.

At the conference, I presented a poster on my work entitled "Reconfigurable Stream-Processing Architecture for Sparse Linear Solvers". The poster was well received and other conference attendees showed interest in my work. I was also able to get ideas for advancing my research by listening to other people's presentations and talking with other researchers.



On the second night of the conference, the conference attendees were treated to a wonderful banquet meal held in the great hall of Queen's University. The great hall is a large room with elaborate wooden carvings and paintings around all of the walls. After a great meal, we were entertained by traditional Irish dancing.

I also had the opportunity to explore and learn about the history of Belfast. I was able to take a tour that showed many of the historic landmarks, such as the Parliament building, the docks where the Titanic was built, St. Anne's Cathedral, and many of the famous murals. On one of the days before the conference, I traveled to Dublin and was able to see Trinity College, the Dublin Castle, and several other notable landmarks around Dublin.

Overall, I had a great experience attending my first conference and traveling to another country. I was able to gain many great research ideas and helped to share my knowledge and ideas with other researchers from throughout the world.