

Training Workshop Programme 2026

Boundary Demarcation & Maintenance

15 – 17 June 2026, Durham, UK



Develop effective strategies and techniques for making international boundaries visible and peaceful



INTRODUCTION

Delimitation of a boundary in a treaty is a crucial first step in boundary-making, but on its own delimitation is of limited value. For borderland populations, boundaries rarely have much meaning until they are identifiable on the ground – and it is arguable that it is only when a boundary has been physically demarcated that it can begin to function effectively.

Many of the world's international boundaries have never been made visible on the ground, and many of those that have been demarcated have subsequently become invisible due to inefficient maintenance regimes. Led by a hugely experienced team of tutors and combining classroom sessions and practical exercises, this unique workshop will assist policymakers and practitioners in developing strategies for the effective demarcation and maintenance of international boundaries in different physical and human landscapes.

Who should attend?

- Surveyors
- Diplomats
- Border guards
- Cartographers
- Boundary commissioners
- Legal advisors
- Borderland resource managers
- Remote sensing specialists

TUTORS

We will be joined by a team of expert tutors who will be on hand to discuss your maritime boundary queries.

Full biographies of the tutors will be available on our website.

Mr Yannick Le Gléau

Advisor, Border Governance: Support to the African Union Border Programme, GIZ African Union



Mr Peter Merrett

Director, Merrett Survey Ltd



Professor Martin Pratt

Director, Bordermap Consulting Ltd



Mr Pedro Pablo Silva Sanchez

Director of Borders, Dirección Nacional de Fronteras y Límites del Estado (DIFROL Fietta LLP)



What will it cost?

The cost of the workshop will be **£2,685** per participant. Fees include 3 nights of accommodation at **Hotel Indigo** in Durham.

Payment can only be accepted in GBP sterling, however, we are able to accept payment by most major credit and debit cards.

Full payment **MUST** be received prior to the workshop to guarantee the booking. If full payment is not received before the deadline date of **31 May 2026**, any provisional places booked will be removed.

Bookings made after 31 May will only be guaranteed with payment in full and if places and accommodation are still available.

REDUCED WORKSHOP RATE FOR LDC LIST COUNTRIES

For countries on the United Nations Least Developed Countries List (LDC), the cost of the workshop will be **£1,685** +accommodation per participant.

NOTE: Places will be restricted to only 2 places per LDC country per workshop at this reduced rate. Any additional places will be available at the full cost price. Places will be available on a first come first served basis.

How to book

Places are limited and early booking is highly recommended:

1. Contact the IBRU Team or complete the online booking form at: <https://www.durham.ac.uk/research/institutes-and-centres/ibru-borders-research/training-and-workshops/professional-training-workshops/>
2. Acknowledgement of the provisional booking will be sent by email with information on how to pay.
3. If payment is not received by the deadline specified, the reserved place will be cancelled and your booking removed to a waiting list. Your place will only be confirmed when payment is received and if a place is still available.

PROGRAMME

Monday 15 June	0900-0930	Introduction
	0930-1030	Principles of boundary demarcation and maintenance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose and value of boundary demarcation • The changing nature of boundary-making • Demarcation options in different physical and human landscapes • The importance of field research • Key challenges in boundary demarcation and maintenance
	1030-1100	<i>Refreshments</i>
	1100-1230	Maps and imagery in boundary demarcation & maintenance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use and abuse of maps, aerial photographs and satellite imagery • Maps and imagery as tools for boundary research and recovery • Working with imprecise mapping
	1230-1330	<i>Lunch</i>
	1330-1500	Case study: Demarcation and maintenance of boundaries in Africa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role of proportionality in case law • The significance and value of state practice • Delimitation of the outer continental shelf
	1500-1530	<i>Refreshments</i>
	1530-1700	Practical exercise Participants will seek to use maps and imagery in support of a range of demarcation-related tasks

Tuesday 16 June	0900-1030	Remotely sensed imagery for boundary work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Types of imagery • Applications of remotely-sensed imagery • Acquiring and interpreting imagery
	1030-1100	<i>Refreshments</i>
	1100-1230	Case study: Demarcation and maintenance of Chile's boundaries
	1230-1330	<i>Lunch</i>
	1330-1700	Practical exercise Working in teams, participants will undertake a field-based survey of a fictional border landscape in preparation for boundary demarcation

Wednesday 17 June	0900-1030	Practical considerations in boundary survey work: a contractor's perspective <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaison with governments and local experts • Practical field work: planning, survey control stations; building monuments; access, safety and security • Survey tools and techniques • Airborne surveys for boundary work
	1030-1100	<i>Refreshments</i>
	1100-1245	Developing good practice in boundary demarcation and maintenance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demarcating river, swamp and lake boundaries • Positional accuracy requirements • Boundary visibility requirements • Maximising flexibility • Involving borderland communities in demarcation and maintenance
	1245-1300	Closing discussion and wrap-up
	1300	<i>Lunch</i>

Cover image:
 Brazil-Venezuela boundary markers in the Pacaraima mountains.
 Image courtesy of Daubeson Monteiro Da Silva

Venue and Accommodation

The Venue

The workshop will take place at **Mill Hill Lane**, part of Durham University.

<https://www.durham.ac.uk/event-durham/our-venues/business-school/>

Workshop Accommodation

Your accommodation, which is included in the workshop fee, will also be in **Hotel Indigo Durham**.

Find out more about your accommodation at Hotel Indigo

<https://durham.hotelindigo.com/>

In addition to tuition and all course materials, the fees cover the following:

- Accommodation at Hotel Indigo for the nights of 14, 15 and 16 June
- Lunch and refreshment breaks on 15, 16 and 17 June
- Evening dinner on 16 June



Additional information

Durham is located in the North East of England about 250 miles north of London. It lies on main road and rail lines between London and Edinburgh and nearby airports offer connections to London Heathrow, Paris and Amsterdam.

Travel

You are expected to organise your own travel arrangements to Durham. Please be aware that if you require a visa to visit the United Kingdom, you will be required to apply for your own visa for entry into the country. Please allow enough time for your visa to be processed before the start of the workshop. A letter on invitation can be provided to support your visa application.

Language

Teaching and workshop materials will be in English. We regret that we are unable to provide translation or interpreting services.

Cancellations

Cancellations must be received in writing not later than the **31 May 2026** and will be subject to a £250 cancellation fee, unless a substitute participant is offered. After this date the full registration fee will be charged for all cancellations.

Programme changes

IBRU reserves the right to modify the programme as necessary without notice to participants.



The J.R.V. Prescott Scholarship

Thanks to a generous donation from the estate of international boundaries scholar JRV Prescott, IBRU is pleased to offer the JRV Prescott Student Scholarship Programme, to support postgraduate attendance at IBRU training workshops.

Each year, IBRU will award one person a scholarship covering workshop registration, plus up to £500 towards expenses, to attend one of that year's regularly scheduled training workshops. To be eligible an individual must be enrolled in a current postgraduate course of study or have completed a postgraduate qualification in the last 5 years in any discipline.

This workshop is eligible for the Prescott Scholarship.



Contact Information

If you have any questions about the workshop please contact the IBRU Team.

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