Michael Powell is a Ph.D. candidate at Dalhousie University under the supervision of Dr. James Brenan. His thesis research is focused on the behaviour of the high field strength elements (HFSE, e.g., Zr, Hf, Nb, Ta) in late-stage felsic magmas. This research employs a high-temperature experimental approach to elucidate the roles that micas and exsolved volatile phases play in the concentration and fractionation of HFSE. Michael will also investigate the role of Fe-Ti oxides in the segregation of HFSE in natural samples from the South Mountain Batholith of Nova Scotia, Canada.

Through the generous funding of the Lipman Research Award, Michael will be able to acquire the high-purity noble metal tubing required to perform his experiments. This tubing becomes the vessel into which experimental samples are loaded and is vital to ensuring the experiment is conducted in a closed system.

Michael is also the Vice President of his department’s graduate student society and is leading the effort to re-establish a student chapter of the Society of Economic Geologists at Dalhousie. Prior to starting his doctoral studies, Michael completed his BSc. (Hons) in Earth Sciences and Biology at Dalhousie University, where he also completed a Certificate in Geographic Information Systems. Outside of academia Michael enjoys backpacking, reading Steinbeck, and watching Notre Dame football.