

**Peter Weber from Brown University,
USA – Semester 1 2017.**



*Professor Weber enjoying the Tongariro Alpine
Crossing*

Where you have come from and what do you teach?

Originally from Germany, I have been at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, USA for more than 25 years. As a physical chemist, I explore the dynamics of molecules, i.e. the motions molecules perform while they undergo chemical reactions. To this end we invent new experimental methodologies that include ultrafast pulsed lasers and ultrashort x-ray beams at National Laboratories.

What interested you in the Erskine Programme/Why did you want to come to UC?

The Erskine program is a terrific opportunity to visit with colleagues at UC. I also developed a new short course on molecular dynamics just for this visit, which I teach now at the university.

What have you been doing at UC?

Much of my time is spent teaching students. In addition, I have tremendously enjoyed the opportunity to learn about exciting research conducted here at UC. Being away from my own university allows me to step back and think about larger problems, which is really important.

What have you most enjoyed about your time here at UC/Christchurch?

I very much enjoy the collegial atmosphere in the department, and the wonderful discussions with colleagues. Already, several ideas have been developed for future projects. I also enjoy the teaching my new course and interacting with the students. In addition, I have spent some time working with a graduate student in the lab, trying to help solve some experimental problems.

Outside of the university, I enjoyed traveling and learning about the country. New Zealand is such a wonderful country with awe-inspiring nature.