Professor Sarah Coyne – Brigham Young University, USA Semester 2 2022

I currently teach child development and family studies at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, USA.



I first heard about the Erskine program when hosting a colleague from UC on her Erskine that included visiting Utah. I found out that the Erskine program also brought in international visitors and immediately looked into the program. I did my last sabbatical in Australia in 2015 and had visited NZ as part of my visit during that time period and fell in love with the country and people.

I have been collaborating with faculty in the Child-well being research institute and the School of Health Sciences on several papers and grants involving the impact of media use on children. We are specifically examining how parenting influences the development of problematic media use in

young children and how playing violent video games impact aggressive behavior across adolescence. We are also submitting a grant to create a research initiative to study media use in New Zealand rangatahi (youth). I have also taught multiple undergraduate and graduate classes, met with multiple UC faculty and students, and have visited with primary school teachers who are involved with the literacy program here in NZ.

I have loved learning about Māori culture and its deep connection with the university. I wish we had such respect for native cultures in the United States where I am from. I will never forget my time here in Christchurch and NZ!

