

Professor Stephen Ashworth– University of East Anglia, UK

Semester 2 2022

I come from the University of East Anglia, in Norwich, UK. I teach chemistry and physics to undergraduates.

I visited Canterbury in 2019 to give a seminar on my way to a conference in Dunedin. It was my profile in science communication and outreach that interested the Head of Department who worked with me to apply for the Erskine Fellowship.

I taught some of one of the first year chemistry modules. In addition, I have been out at local schools performing my “Kitchen Chemistry” science show, which I also did at the inaugural Lyttleton Fire Festival. I’ve also spent a day at the University of Otago where I did a presentation for UEA partnerships office, spoke to other colleagues interested in internationalisation, and did a Kitchen Chemistry workshop for the Chemistry Department, and the Science Communication students.

In my spare time I have been playing with the Woolston Concert Brass who have lent me a trombone so I can keep in practice as I have a National Brass Band competition final to play in soon after I return to the UK. My wife and I have also visited Akaroa, the Gondola, ridden on the tram, viewed the Moeraki Boulders, and enjoyed the excellent chips at the Staff Club! We are currently staying a couple of nights at the Mount John Observatory overlooking Lake Tekapo, as a guest of the department.

That’s hard to say. I love teaching, wherever I do it, and the opportunity to perform my Kitchen Chemistry show to a variety of pupils and public. All the people I have met have been lovely, welcoming and helpful. I’m also very impressed with the public transport system and the bus station.