

Associate Professor Claire Davies - Queen's University, Canada

Semester 2 2021



Associate Professor Claire Davies is hosted by Dr Deborah Munro in the Department of Mechanical Engineering in semester 2, 2021. Claire's area of expertise is: biomedical, biomechanics, human factors, universal design, co-design, interdisciplinary teaching and design.

Where have you come from and what do you teach?

I have come from Queen's University in Kingston where I have been for the past six years after being a senior lecturer in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Auckland from 2009-2015. I am a kiwi citizen (as well as South African, British, and Canadian) which has allowed my family to travel here for my sabbatical during COVID. I teach biomedical engineering design and am working with Debbie Munro.

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

I learned about the Erskine Program about twenty years ago while visiting Canterbury the first time. Unbeknownst to me until I arrived, there was a colleague who had been visiting on an Erskine at that time. The opportunity to return to New Zealand especially during the pandemic was a big draw. I have a son at the University of Auckland, so it was good to be close, but not too close (except that since lockdown, he has been here with us – more time than we would have expected).

What have you been doing at UC?

At UofC, the design project in my third-year class is linked to the Christchurch Heart Institute. Our client has defined a problem and the class is working to design a solution. Additionally, I've been making connections with people with whom I am familiar through their work but have never met.

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

Admittedly the freedom of the first few weeks before lockdown. Teaching without a mask and interacting with people was fantastic. It has also been wonderful to be here as spring arrives and the flowers grow. Being in university housing is great since the gardening is done for me and I can just enjoy the results!