

Simon Eveson from The University of York, UK – Semester 1 2018.

Where you have come from and what do you teach?

The University of York, in the UK (as opposed to York University, which is in Canada!). I teach in the Department of Mathematics. When I'm asked if I have preferences about which modules I teach, I usually say no. As a result, I've taught a lot of different material over the years: computer skills, writing skills, numerical computation and lots of mathematics, from the very applicable to the rather pure.

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

I've known my UC host, Nick Dudley Ward, for a very long time and visited UC a couple of years ago, as part of a research project involving numerical simulations of seismic waves. An Erskine fellowship was an excellent opportunity to visit UC again, to see Nick and to talk to people with similar interests (especially graduate students). From the teaching point of view, I was able to lecture on topics that wouldn't be combined into a single course in a Mathematics department, to a different type of audience.

What have you been doing at UC?

I've lectured on Deterministic Mathematical Models. Starting with material that I've taught many times, this course moved on to interesting applications that I hadn't seen before. I've also talked about high-performance computing, mostly to graduate students, and will also present

some more technical mathematical material to a similar audience. In between, Nick and I have done a little work on seismic waves.



Simon enjoying a visit to the Tasman Glacier, with Mount Cook in the background

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

Apart from 8am lectures? The students attending my lectures had a great attitude to their studies. The lecture theatre was always full (well, almost full at 8am). I met many of them individually to talk about particular queries and was always impressed by their commitment and their willingness to engage with difficulties, not dodge them. Swapping Yorkshire winter for NZ summer wasn't a bad idea, either.