

**Alastair McDonald from the University of Southampton, UK:
Semester 2 2018**



Where have you come from, and what do you teach?

I'm from the University of Southampton, UK where I am the Director of Design Education for the School of Engineering, Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences. I teach design curriculum across our engineering disciplines; Acoustic, Aero/Astro, Civil, Maritime and Mechanical Engineering, with a focus on developing our students' innovation, process, sustainability and communication skills. I'm also the Programme Lead for Civil Engineering and Architecture programme.

My staff profile is:

<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/engineering/about/staff/amm1v12.page><https://www.southampton.ac.uk/engineering/about/staff/amm1v12.page>

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

The University of Canterbury has a strong international reputation and particularly so for its engineering disciplines. The Erskine Programme offered an opportunity to experience the delivery of your established programmes and learn from your staff and students. Being involved in the inaugural year of your School of Product Design has been particularly rewarding and offered the opportunity to pass on my own experience that may help shape the development of the programmes.

What have you been doing at UC?

A range of activities: discussing programme and course delivery and development with staff from the School of Product Design, providing students with design tutorials to help them develop their ideas, delivering lectures, meeting with staff from across the engineering disciplines and, as of tomorrow, delivering a seminar focused on the transformative assessment and design approaches at Southampton.

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

The University has provided an extremely welcoming environment and I've most enjoyed working with and learning from the University staff, particularly from within the School of Product Design. I've also very much enjoyed talking to the students about their design ideas - you have some keen and highly capable students here and it's exciting to think what they might achieve. More broadly I've very much enjoyed living in Christchurch and exploring New Zealand, it's been a very positive experience for me and one that will leave a lasting impression.