



## Student Profile: Sarah Edwards



Sarah initially completed a Bachelor of Science with honours in Psychology at the University of Nottingham in the United Kingdom. After graduating, she started out teaching English as a foreign language in Japanese High Schools, and then trained to be a Science teacher in the English Secondary School system. After working as a Science teacher in England for a couple of years she came over to New Zealand to teach here (at Temuka High School and then Cashmere High School).

Sarah was thinking seriously about leaving teaching and wanted to study something, although she wasn't sure what. Given that she lived in Christchurch she had two options for where to study. She chose Lincoln University largely because of how much she had enjoyed a day spent on campus with her Year 12 Chemistry class! Sarah found everyone to be very friendly and she felt that there seemed to be a really good atmosphere on campus. Since starting at Lincoln (in 2008) Sarah has worked for Environment Canterbury (in the Resource Care section) and Waihora Ellesmere Trust (as Education Officer).

After following what Sarah describes as “a fairly convoluted path”, she is now enrolled as a PhD student under the supervision of Dr. Roy Montgomery and Dr. Suzanne Vallance. Her research aims to explore how New Zealand-based research into Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) is organised and controlled. It is based on the theoretical position that nothing has a pre-existing meaning; rather, meaning is generated through relationships and actions involving humans and non-humans. Her focus is on not only the technical aspects of how GMOs are developed, but also the wider socio-political context and connections that determine the progress of a programme of research. She is hoping that this will not only give some insight into what GMOs “are” as objects, but also how the relative “risk” or “safety” of such research is created.

Given that there is always so much more to a person than their research we asked Sarah to share something with us that many people would not know. To this she has revealed that she has a second-dan ranking in Kendo, although she tells us that she has not practised in years.