



Simon Tett, PhD Parallel Algorithms for Atmospheric Modelling, 1992

Who is your current employer and what do they do?
School of Geosciences, University of Edinburgh

What is your job title and what does the job entail?

Research, teaching, applying for funding and staff management. Part of my current role is to manage 1/3 of the academics in the School of Geosciences.

How did you achieve your current position?

I first did a PhD – largely because I wanted to better understand weather, climate and computing. I wanted to apply the Mathematical, Computational and Physical skills I had developed in my first degree to a real-world problem and wanted to stay in Edinburgh. After the PhD I joined the Met Office's Hadley Centre as a Higher Scientific Officer in 1991. The Hadley Centre is the Met Office's climate research wing. I got promoted to Senior Scientific Officer in 1993 and then to team manager in early 2001. On the way my roles changed so I was managing a small team from 1997 on.

Following a change in personal circumstances in 2005 I applied for the Chair position in Edinburgh and started work here in 2007.

The PhD training gave me the self-confidence and planning skills to tackle research problems in climate science. I also found the computational skills I developed very helpful. Some luck in moving into climate science in the early 1990's made career progression easier than if I had gone into other areas. The Met Office took staff development very seriously so I had a lot of useful training and development in my 17 years there.

How do you feel you have used the skills and/or knowledge developed during your research degree in your career to date?

I'm still an active researcher so I think the PhD helped. I think the main thing I got from it was a sense of how to tackle problems and the confidence to feel I could succeed.

Other qualifications

BSc. (Hons) Mathematical Physics, 1987