

## Byng Giraud - Alumni Profile



Byng graduated from Aberystwyth University in 1996 with an MSc Econ in International Relations from the Department of International Politics. Byng also has a BA in History from the University of Victoria together with an MBA from Cambridge University.

Since graduating from Aberystwyth, Byng has successfully developed his career within strategic policy development, communications and government/public affairs -working for a range of companies across British Columbia.

His current role as a Senior Director of Policy and Communications for the Association for Mineral Exploration British Columbia involves a range of activities including government relations at federal, provincial and local level; leading on research and policy development; overseeing a communications and PR team; managing regulatory affairs including environmental assessments, permits and regulatory affairs and the management and implementation of the community relations programme.

Byng has very fond memories of his time at Aberystwyth and comments:

*"Doing graduate work overseas was something I had been considering for some time. I looked at a few different countries including several schools in the UK. I was attracted to Aberystwyth for a number of reasons - firstly it had a world class international affairs program with professors specializing in my areas of interest. Secondly, as I was applying to Universities, my wife and I were married...so a University that has lively graduate student life but also had a sense of community was essential. I also wasn't interested in being trapped in some overpriced run-down flat in the middle of a city with my new wife. So the beauty of the Welsh Coast was very appealing, particularly for someone coming from British Columbia. Studying in deepest Wales has the advantage of seeming very foreign (Welsh is spoken everywhere) while having the comfort of services in English. In many ways living and studying in Aberystwyth was as exotic an adventure as travelling anywhere else in the world. We try to maintain contact with friends from our time there and have returned to visit twice over the years.*

*My wife and I were married in the summer and less than a month later we were eight time zones away on the lovely Welsh coast. To this day I tell my wife she had the longest and most interesting honeymoon ever - a full year in Aberystwyth!"*