

Interview by Jemma Purdey and David Lowe with Dhian Kusuma, Jakarta, 24 April 2014

MA, Public Policy and Management, Flinders University, 2000 cohort



[00:00:15]	Originally from Jakarta. Working at Indonesian Institute of Sciences, before the scholarship. Was involved in finance and planning at the institute. Undergraduate studies in Public Administration at Sebelas Maret University in Surakarta. Studied MA Public Policy and Management at Flinders University and now continuing studies (PhD) in Public Policy at University of Indonesia.	Family background; childhood; Education
[00:03:00]	Auntie was part of the selection team for Australian Development Scholarships (ADS), encouraged Dhian to apply for the scholarship. Australian scholarships were the only international scholarships that provided family support. Applying for ADS in 2001 wasn't a difficult process but it has got more difficult. Dhian provides coaching and advice for other applicants and successful scholars. Studying in Australia was the first time living overseas for her.	Scholarship application process; mentoring
[00:06:51]	Different cultures at her workplace. No staff trained overseas in the bureau at the	Scholarship application process: workplace support

	time so boss was supportive but lots of obstacles, had to conceal application from supervisor who didn't agree. Auntie helped with the application and provided information about Australia.	
[00:09:29]	Father's influence: gave advice about her career, Indonesia-Australia relations and issues e.g. gender, local government, public sector reform. With father's advice researched and chose course and university, chose Flinders University because the program seemed very relevant to Indonesia and matched Dhian's professional background.	Selection of course in Australia
[00:12:25]	Teaching culture: a bit more 'Australian' than expected. Was involved when the university developed its five-year plan, appreciated that input from international students was sought and heeded. Lecturers were very welcoming and helpful. Students were a mix of Australian and international students. Has been able to apply what she learned in her work in Indonesia.	Scholarship experience and application to work post-study
[00:15:49]	Lived in Pasadena, near the campus, liked the area, security office made her feel safe. Wanted to learn Australian culture, made friends from Women's studies and elsewhere, didn't mix with Indonesians. On Friday nights would go out with friends or stay at a friend's place, girl-talk.	Living in Adelaide
[00:19:52]	Work: wanted to know what it was like. Had some part-time jobs as a cleaner, in a school office and went fruit picking for a month. Travelled to Canberra, Sydney and	Part-time work experience in Australia; travel

	Melbourne on holiday with friends.	
[00:23:29]	Surprised by splitting the bill at restaurants, some racism on the streets drunken mouthing off. Older people were friendly, need someone to talk to. Adelaide is friendlier than Sydney and Melbourne. September 11 and the Bali bombing, the university reassured the international students of their safety. AusAID liaison officer on campus was helpful, especially with sorting out mistake on visa.	Observations about Australians
[00:27:50]	Sister-in-law also submitted ADS application. Dhian and her father gave advice and coaching, she was accepted and became the Flinders representative in Jakarta on her return.	Mentoring
[00:28:45]	Watched Channel 7, Australian Big Brother	Australian culture: TV
[00:29:48]	No problem practising religion. Friend said it was safer in Adelaide than in Sydney, had good experiences (wallet returned intact). Keeps in touch with people she met at Flinders.	Living in Adelaide
[00:33:57]	Missed Australia when she left; was accepted to do a PhD in Australia but had to cancel because was pregnant and husband didn't allow her to go. Studying for PhD at UI instead. Hasn't been able to go back to Australia, assuages regret by coaching friends who want to go there.	Leaving Australia; Mentoring new applicants
[00:35:29]	Australian Reference Group, alumni groups, very important for professional development, access to resources. Seminars are relevant. UI staff members	Networks

	are also part of the group. Quite a lot of Indonesians getting scholarships but family policy changed in 2008 or 2009 so there is less interest. Other scholarships being offered may have an easier process.	
[00:39:59]	Keeps up with Australian news, especially do to with beef and the dairy industry, and recently about Tony Abbott's policy and cut to aid budget affecting scholarships. Some activities have resumed after that time. Daughter very interested in Australia.	Post-study interest in Australia
[00:43:40]	Would like to return to Australia. Entering Flinders University anniversary writing competition, aimed at international alumni. Ministry of Finance scholarships. Wants to make more connections so can send more people to Australia. When finishes PhD will get a promotion and may be able to.	Maintaining connections
[00:47:56]	Scholarships are very important in helping the relationship between Indonesia and Australia. Australian education is more neutral, some Indonesian universities are influenced by ideology. Supervisor-student relationship in Australia inspired Dhian to do a PhD so she can be a mentor to other students.	Australia-Indonesia relationship
[00:52:47]	Students can speak more freely in Australia than in Indonesia. Did research on waste management, compared Australia with Jakarta.	Education in Australia; Research topic
[00:55:31]	Comes naturally because of teaching experience and people in Australia asked her for help too. Had help from a proofreading service and	Mentoring

	friends with checking assignments. Friend, Monica, lives in California with her family (husband and three children).	
[01:00:05]	Parents raised her to be independent, third child of four and only girl. Brothers haven't studied overseas, not interested in research and study. Daughter is seven now. Had to work for two years to get maternity leave of three months. Now only six weeks leave. Had to return to full time work, mother looked after daughter.	Family, parenting and work-life balance
[01:02:34]	Husband worked for an Australian company. Dreams of doing more research and presenting overseas, some government support for it. Workplace doesn't support research, must be done in her own time, gets some help from friends at university and support from parents.	Future plans
[01:07:50]	End	