

Interview by Jemma Purdey and Ahmad Suaedy with Siti Asmiyah, Surabaya, 30 May 2014
MA, TESOL, Victoria University, 2008-2010

[00:00:47]	Was in Australia from the beginning of 2008 at Victoria University for twenty months to do a master's in TESOL.	Studying in Australia
[00:02:23]	Born in Tulungagung and after finishing school went to Malang to do a bachelor degree, then worked in Kalimantan and Sidoarjo. Her undergraduate degree was in English teaching at Malang Institute of Teacher Education and Educational Sciences (IKIP), now Malang University (UM). She didn't plan to move around Indonesia but the opportunities arose and she took them. She started at the university [State Islamic University Sunan Ampel Surabaya (UIN)] in 2006. Had dreamed of being a university lecturer even though she didn't have a master's and in 2005 she heard that they were accepting applications from people with a bachelor. Soon after she was appointed she applied for an Australian scholarship, she didn't know of any other scholarships. She had no information about scholarships when she was working in private colleges and hadn't thought of going to live overseas before.	Childhood; Early education; Undergraduate education; Early career; Application process
[00:06:21]	She got the information about the scholarship from another junior lecturer who also applied and went a few years later. The application process was smooth but the process of going was difficult because her status as a new lecturer meant she wasn't fully employed as a civil servant so she wasn't allowed to go. However, the vice rector enabled her to go after a semester. She had two children and, at first, she didn't consider bringing them but once she got to Melbourne and saw other students with their children she decided to bring them. She arrived in January and her husband and children came in March. He was an engineer with a private electricity company and left his job to come. AusAID helped with the visas. The children were five and three. Her son went to Prep at Footscray North and her daughter went to childcare. They lived in Footscray, not far from the campus.	Application process; Family; Living in Australia
[00:10:40]	During the pre-departure training in Bali she had contact with an Indonesian student who was studying at VU and so she had somewhere to live as soon as she arrived. She did coursework with a minor project about using Islamic content to teach English writing. She used skype to interview people and sent questionnaires via the	Pre-departure experience; Indonesian community in Australia; Studying in Australia

	internet and her sister in Indonesia helped collect them.	
[00:13:24]	It was exciting to be in Melbourne and a good opportunity for the children. They met other families through the school and childcare. The style of teaching was very different, less formal and the students were encouraged to express themselves. It took her son about six weeks to speak English. There was an ESL teacher that taught him twice a week. Her husband worked in a powder coating factory near Monash, so he had to drive. On weekends they went shopping and to parks with friends, other Indonesian students, and to Scienceworks and the beach.	Living in Australia; Socialising in Australia; Family; Work experience in Australia; Leisure in Australia
[00:17:27]	It was January and hot when she arrived but very cold during the winter. Her supervisor was affected by the bush fires. Siti lived in an apartment with her family but it was hard to find, she applied to many estate agents and student housing services helped. A friend helped her organise schooling and childcare for her children before they came. The AusAID liaison officer helped with visas, connecting her with her course coordinator and extending her scholarship. She needed more time because the responses from Indonesia were late.	Living in Australia; Indonesian community in Melbourne; Scholarship experience
[00:21:24]	They left in October so her son didn't finish the year and had to repeat Year 1 when he got home. Not many schools wanted to accept him because his bahasa was a bit undeveloped but she got him into a school with the help of a friend and it only took him a few months to adjust. He learns English at school. Her daughter started kindergarten in Indonesia, it's like Prep in Australia.	Returning to Indonesia; Family
[00:24:06]	It took her a little while to adjust to working again when she came back to Indonesia. The teaching style in Australia wasn't very different to what she had experienced at IKIP Malang. The relationship between staff and students at VU was closer, more personal than in Indonesia. She has a relationship like that with her students now.	Returning to Indonesia; Post-scholarship career; Supervisor-student relationship
[00:27:30]	In Melbourne she helped initiate a group of children learning to read the Koran, hosted at her house on the weekends. The group has continued and grown since then. Now she's involved in neighbourhood activities with other women. Before she came back the university contacted her about being the secretary of the department and she did that from when she came back in 2009 until the end of 2013 when she left on another scholarship to do a PhD. The role involved helping the head of the department	Living in Australia; Indonesian community in Melbourne; Religious community in Melbourne; Leadership; Returning to Indonesia; Post-scholarship career

	with program planning, curriculum design and other tasks to help the department. She also taught in the bachelor course.	
[00:30:52]	There is a postgraduate program in Islamic Studies but not English. She's doing her PhD in English teaching at Surabaya State University (UNESA). Her PhD project is about interdiscursivity in English abstracts of journals of Islamic Studies. She's in her second year of the PhD, the first year was course work. Her scholarship is for three years, from Islamic Development Bank. She was looking for a PhD scholarship soon after getting home because she finds teaching and research more interesting than administration.	Further scholarship opportunity; Professional networks
[00:34:46]	The majority of people in the English language department have studied overseas, ten of fourteen full-time lecturers. She was interested in doing a PhD overseas but she took the opportunity that came first. She would have had to wait for four years before applying for another AusAID scholarship. Her husband used his Australian tax refund to study at UNESA and now he teaches engineering at IKIP PGRI Madiun. He's studying English so he can apply for a scholarship to Australia.	Professional network; Post-scholarship career; Family; International mobility
[00:37:25]	While in Melbourne they went Albury, Ballarat, Geelong, Twelve Apostles. Siti went to Sydney in 2011 and 2012 for entrepreneurship workshops in the business department at Sydney University, part of an ongoing collaboration between UIN and Sydney uni. Still has contact with her supervisor at VU and some of the Indonesian students she met there. She misses things about Melbourne. It's very multicultural, the neighbours were friendly and her classmates helpful. She was the only international student but the other students were from a range of backgrounds – Turkish, Chinese, Vietnamese etc. The classes were at night so they sometimes shared dinner.	Living in Australia; Travel in Australia; Professional network; Ongoing connections with Australia; International student network; Friendships
[00:41:07]	Not all the students were teachers, there was a nurse, a social worker, people from different backgrounds. She could walk to the campus. She didn't go to any Indonesia-related seminars or events on campus because she was only a master's student, not PhD. Her husband's English score isn't 500 yet. He lives in Maduin, four hours away, so he's only home on weekends. Siti had two more children after coming back to Indonesia. She didn't want to have a baby in Australia, wanted to focus on her studies.	Studying in Australia; Family
[00:43:59]	Some other students plan to have a baby in	Family

	Australia, so the baby has an Australian birth certificate. Her third child was conceived soon after she finished her master's and was born while she was departmental secretary. She only had two weeks maternity weeks because it was her third child. [Discussion about another alumnus at UIN.]	
[00:47:22]	She and her husband agree that someone should be at home with the children, so over the years they have swapped roles depending on who is studying or has full time work. Now they have someone who comes from 5.30 to 4.00 so Siti can go to work.	Family; Post-scholarship career
[00:49:19]	END	