

Interview by Jemma Purdey and Ahmad Suaedy with Yulfia, Mataram, 5 August 2014
 MA Rural Systems Management, UQ, 2010 cohort



<p>[00:00:18]</p>	<p>Originally from central Lombok, the family lived in several sub-districts because her father was a sub-district head. Went to village schools for primary then stayed with her uncle in Mataram to go to high school. Started studying technology at University of Mataram (Unram) but didn't really like it so went to Bogor Agricultural University (IPB). While there she got married and her family said she should come back to Mataram so she studied in the agriculture faculty at Unram, which she enjoyed. She graduated, cum laude, in 2003 after four years. In 2005 she applied to be a lecturer there.</p>	<p>Background; childhood; early education</p>
<p>[00:03:48]</p>	<p>Already had two children, the first was born during the first semester at Unram. She did a bachelor in horticulture. At University of Queensland (UQ) did a MA of Rural Systems Management. Her second baby was born at the end of the final semester of the bachelor. Her husband was already working as a notary in his own office.</p>	<p>Undergraduate studies; Children</p>

[00:06:32]	<p>During her bachelor Yulfia wasn't involved in campus activities but she helped with her lecturer's project and wrote her bachelor thesis about it. After graduating she applied for jobs with little success (many employers wanted unmarried women) so she contacted her lecturer and was accepted as a lecturer. Since then lecturers must have a MA degree to be accepted. Started as an assistant lecturer and enjoyed interacting with the students. After two years the vice dean encouraged her to do a MA. It seemed too expensive but heard from colleagues about scholarships and in 2007 applied for an Australian Partnership scholarship.</p>	<p>Early academic career; Application for scholarship; Mentors with Australia connections</p>
[00:11:48]	<p>There were no scholarships for horticulture or biotechnology, they were mostly for things like community development, teaching and gender studies, not science. In the same year she applied for an Australian Development Scholarship (ADS), the rector helped her fill out the forms. There were two ambassadors for the program from the faculty of agriculture, they provided information, and Yulfia's two supervisors were also alumni of the program. Five or six of about twelve horticulture staff are alumni so there was lots of advice available.</p>	<p>Applying for scholarship; Mentoring from alumni;</p>
[00:14:52]	<p>Yulfia's husband was worried at first but after discussing it they decided to go ahead. It was a requirement of tenure but not affordable without a</p>	<p>Preparations for application; English language study</p>

	scholarship and there were no MA programs in Mataram at the time. It took about a year to apply, studying English and passing the tests. Is planning to do a PhD so must do the English tests again.	
[00:17:39]	Yulfia's first application wasn't successful (an English score of 500 was required and she got 470) but she tried again the next year and was successful. Also applied for an Australian Partnership Scholarship (APS). She was successful with both APS and ADS because of an administrative error and accepted the APS. The ADS scholarship was for studying biotechnology and the APS was more related to community development and at first it was hard to change from a science perspective but now she's very glad she had the opportunity to go in that direction and connect more with people.	Scholarship awarded, ADS/APS; New field of study; community development
[00:22:38]	Chose UQ because knew many other UQ alumni who had recommended it. Also, had written to a number of universities and UQ's reply was nice. Did the MA by coursework. Had spent nine months in Bali preparing to come to Australia and talked to other alumni but still wasn't very clear how the MA would work.	University selection; mentoring by alumni; pre-departure training
[00:26:43]	There were many international students doing the course and they did a four-week course in Australia before they started the MA. Yulfia felt her English improved the most	Studying in Australia; Family in Australia; Spouse working in Australia

	<p>when her children started to talk to her in English. Her husband left his job in Lombok. She and her husband both did casual work on farms, picking fruit and vegetables and clipping wings on a chook farm. Their daughter went to school and their son went to childcare. That was hard but the scholarship wasn't enough to support them all so they had to work.</p>	
[00:29:44]	<p>They were happy in Australia and still keep in touch with friends, especially from the childcare centre. Yulfia helped at the centre doing origami and cooking food to share. Her daughter learnt English quickly and made Australian friends.</p>	<p>Ongoing connections with Australia; Family; Friendships</p>
[00:32:36]	<p>Wrote a minor thesis about community-based and private aged care in Crow's Nest. Had proposed to study something else but her supervisor suggested the aged care study. She interviewed board members, management, staff, residents and family members.</p>	<p>Studying in Australia; Friendships</p>
[00:37:43]	<p>Found that people were sad but accepting of the hospital closing. The committee of the new place felt they weren't welcome but Yulfia's research found they were and she sent them her results. It took about a year to do the study. The family went back to Mataram because her husband needed to go back to his job. The transition back was quite hard. Her daughter was in Grade 3 and has kept her English but her son was five and hasn't kept his. School is</p>	<p>Studying in Australia; Rural Australia; Returning to Indonesia; Family</p>

	more demanding in Indonesia so it's been hard for the children. They've lost their reading habit.	
[00:42:34]	There weren't many Indonesian students on campus, maybe three or four families. There were a lot of international students. Not many Muslim students but there was a small mosque at the university and they went to Toowoomba each week to get halal food and kept it in the freezer.	Living in Australia; Indonesian community; Muslim community
[00:45:07]	Stays in touch with Australian friends through Facebook. Before they went to Australia, Yulfia did the housework and childcare but in Australia her husband did more of that work. And that has continued now they are back in Lombok, although they have help so neither of them have to do as much.	Ongoing connections with Australia; Friendships; Social media; Family life and gendered roles
[00:47:49]	Yulfia is now secretary of the agribusiness study program in the Faculty of Agriculture. Agribusiness is the most popular program in the faculty. Before being the secretary she was busy with community extension activities: she started a beekeeping project in 2010 in collaboration with someone from animal husbandry. They used stingless bees that produce good honey and helped farmers to develop beekeeping businesses. One of them has become well known for his beekeeping and earns a good income from it.	Career; Promotion; Community involvement
[00:54:56]	Also got funding from Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research	Ongoing connections with Australia; Research

	<p>Organisation (CSIRO) for a climate change project, helping CSIRO researchers in the field and identifying ways to adapt to climate change. Found that beekeeping is a good way so helps people to become beekeepers. Has published findings in an international journal.</p>	<p>collaboration and funding</p>
<p>[00:57:25]</p>	<p>Is also involved with Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) in value chain management in Eastern Indonesia, helping Australian researchers to map the value chain products. A senior colleague at CSIRO, James Butler, encouraged Yulfia to apply to do a PhD and offered to supervise her so she applied to James Cook University. Will find out in December 2014. Is planning to take the children again. Her husband encouraged her to pursue her career but he will stay in Lombok. Hopes she will be able to accompany Australian students to Unram and so come home every year.</p>	<p>Ongoing connections with Australia; Research collaboration; Future plans for further study overseas</p>
<p>[01:02:51]</p>	<p>END</p>	