

IGS Scholar's Name: Ding Yuanzhao

Research Centre: SCELSE

- 1. Your current employment details (Designation, name of company, country and scope of work)**
Now I am working as a Research Associate in CEE, NTU, Singapore.
- 2. What motivates or trigger you to pursue a doctorate?**
The motivation of study triggers me to pursue my doctorate.
- 3. Why or how did you decide to apply to IGS or the interdisciplinary route of research?**
Since the scientific questions are more and more complicated, it is great to use interdisciplinary methods to solve the problems.
- 4. What is your thesis about?**
I am working in molecular mapping of live biofilms at submicrometer resolution.
- 5. Why did you choose this topic and how does it benefit people or industries globally or internationally?**
This novel *in situ* mass spectrometry can help the people understand the microbiology better.
- 6. What kind of interaction did you have in IGS? How did that help you?**
I have many good lab mates and friends in IGS. We collaborated with each other and made progress in research.
- 7. What are the challenges you faced during the candidature and how did you overcome it?**
My experiments failed so many times. I changed my experimental design and everything became great after that.
- 8. What was your proudest moment or fondest memories over the years of candidature? E.g awards, overseas conference, patent, published papers, etc.**
I have the published papers.
- 9. What do you think are the attributes for PhD students to successfully go through the 4 years?**
The good research ideas are most important.
- 10. Please share 1 key motivational/ key take away message with your juniors?**
Keep good balance to your life and your work.
- 11. How does it feel like when you received the scholarship offer?**
At that time I feel really great.

- 12. Share with us some memorable photos you've taken with 1 line description of each photo. (e.g. Overseas conference, interactions in IGS, etc)**



Sep 2015: my conference presentation in Seattle, WA, USA.

- 13. What will you miss after graduating?**

I will miss my supervisors, my mentors, and my teachers. I will also miss the nice campus of NTU.

- 14. What is your next adventure / challenge or any plans for the future?**

I still don't have my future plans at this stage.

- 15. Is there anything you want to say to your family, supervisors, mentors, friends or anybody?**

It is great to be with you for several years. I love Singapore.