

IGS Scholar's Name: LI Junxia
Research Centre: NEWRI-R3C

- 1. Your current employment details (Designation, name of company, country and scope of work)**
I am employed in ERI@N of NTU as a research associate now. And I joined a project to develop smart construction material applied in underground structures.
- 2. What motivates or trigger you to pursue a doctorate?**
I prefer to have the title of "Dr." ahead of my name.
- 3. Why or how did you decide to apply to IGS or the interdisciplinary route of research?**
My major is a structural engineering which is traditional in research area. To meet different requirements of infrastructures, further development of topics related to structures has to be made using interdisciplinary knowledges.
- 4. What is your thesis about?**
My thesis is about developing mix design method of new construction material using multiscale and multiphysics models. The multiphysics means different areas of knowledges are used, like micromechanics, probability and chemistry.
- 5. Why did you choose this topic and how does it benefit people or industries globally or internationally?**
New construction material has been developed to meet different requirement of infrastructures. So it is one of the cutting-edge research area in civil engineering. In order to apply the new construction material into the field, an appropriate mix design method is necessary to develop.
- 6. What kind of interaction did you have in IGS? How did that help you?**
IGS host many kinds of sports activities which give an opportunity of all students knowing each other from different research areas. That broadens our field of vision to know more research topics in the world.
- 7. What are the challenges you faced during the candidature and how did you overcome it?**
One impressive change is to prepare for the oral defence of qualifying examination and final examination. The requirement of presentation for my supervisor is quite high, I struggled about it. I practiced time and time again to remember all the words for the presentation.
- 8. What was your proudest moment or fondest memories over the years of candidature? E.g awards, overseas conference, patent, published papers, etc.**
The proudest moment was that I was selected to attend a summer school in Germany. Several students were applied at the same time, but I was successfully accepted because I have experimental experience on the material as well as knowledge behind it.
- 9. What do you think are the attributes for PhD students to successfully go through the 4 years?**
Firstly students have to ask themselves about the aim of pursuing PhD. Secondly, once students determined to go through the 4 years, never give up when facing many difficulties. Thirdly, during the process, learn as much as you can.

10. Please share 1 key motivational/ key take away message with your juniors?

Perseverance is the most significant message for PhD journey.

11. How does it feel like when you received the scholarship offer?

I was quite excited.

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)

The memorable photo is the one with all students hurray for the kayaking in the sea.

13. What will you miss after graduating?

I miss all the tough process of overcoming the difficulties which I paid a lot of efforts.

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

I am going to continue with research on the same area with the hope of more research outputs.

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

I only want to say "Thank you!"