

IGS Scholar's Name: Thia Yi Ping Larissa
Research Centre: IGS – NEWRI R3C

- 1. Your current employment details (Designation, name of company, country and scope of work)**
 - Currently unemployed
- 2. What motivates or trigger you to pursue a doctorate?**
 - The motivation of working on interesting/fundamental problems
 - Freedom to pursue independent research
 - Freedom to go deep into a topic
- 3. Why or how did you decide to apply to IGS or the interdisciplinary route of research?**
 - IGS offered the freedom to explore the intersection between 2 fields which was very appealing to me
- 4. What is your thesis about?**
 - Main topic: Selective electro-oxidation of glycerol to value added chemicals
 - Objective of thesis: to improve selectivity of gold nanoparticles via interaction with non-noble metals
- 5. Why did you choose this topic and how does it benefit people or industries globally or internationally?**
 - Glycerol is the major side product from bio-diesel production
 - The ability to convert glycerol to value added chemicals will greatly increase the financial and environmental sustainability of biodiesel production
- 6. What kind of interaction did you have in IGS? How did that help you?**
 - The student seminars were especially useful for keeping me informed about what other peers were working on
 - The seminars were also a time to catch up with different groups of friends from IGS
- 7. What are the challenges you faced during the candidature and how did you overcome it?**
 - Met with a lot of challenges in my research and I got through it mainly with the help and encouragement of my group mates
- 8. What was your proudest moment or fondest memories over the years of candidature? E.g awards, overseas conference, patent, published papers, etc.**
 - Finishing my thesis!
 - Publishing my 2 papers
- 9. What do you think are the attributes for PhD students to successfully go through the 4 years?**
 - Resilience
 - Persistence
 - Helpful group mates who are willing to guide you during the initial stages

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

- Stay on the bus!
- Be persistent in your research! http://www.fotocommunity.com/info/Helsinki_Bus_Station_Theory

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

- I was really happy and excited to begin a new phase of my life

12. What will you miss after graduating?

- freedom to plan my own schedule

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

- Looking into full stack developer roles with companies in the following areas: biotech/chemicals, deep learning/ai or data centric firms

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

- I would like to thank Prof Wang Xin for his utmost patience and understanding
- I would also like to extend my gratitude to my group mates, especially, Wang Haibo, Xie Mingshi, Li Nan and Wang Jiong. Without their guidance (Wang Haibo's in particular) this thesis and the publications which support it would never have been completed.