

ATN Indonesia PhD Candidate Introductions

Q&A Script Example.

Please Note: The following example script was produced just to provide candidates with an exemplar of the possible style and content of responses to this Q&A presentation. This script was produced based on real academic studies, publications, and research groups associated with ATN member universities.

Question One (30 seconds)

Firstly, please introduce yourself and your current work position.

Hi, thank you for visiting my profile. My name is Claudia Maramis, I'm 29 years old from North Sulawesi in Indonesia. I'm currently working as a lecturer in the Faculty of Marine Science and Fisheries at Hasanuddin University in Makassar, which is the biggest city in the region of Eastern Indonesia.

Question Two (1:00min)

Tell us about your academic background and an overview of any past research (Masters dissertation, ongoing research, publications etc).

I grew up swimming amongst the seagrass meadows of North Sulawesi, and learnt from my father at a young age their importance to the health of our tropical marine ecosystem.

I went on to study Marine Science for my bachelors degree and then later for a Masters Degree.

I worked on mapping fish species assemblages in the seagrass meadows along the shore of Tanjung Merah in North Sulawesi - an ecosystem which covers about 20 hectares, and is well known to support local fisheries.

My study aimed to map baseline data to monitor any changes in fish assemblage structures. A total of 142 species belonging to 34 families were identified.

Two species that were in permanent residence, confirmed that these important seagrass beds function as spawning and nursery habitats.

My research was published in the internationally refereed journal of marine research Indonesia, and I have been actively involved in follow up studies with the Indonesia Institute of Sciences.

Question Three (2:00 mins)

Tell us about your proposed PhD research, and include some details about the research context, any research questions you propose, proposed methods, and the significance of the research.

I'm now eligible for an Indonesian Government Scholarship to study for my PhD overseas, and while I'm not exactly sure of what I want to focus on for my PhD , I'm very interested in the work of several seagrass research groups throughout the Australian Technology Network.

I'm particularly interested in systems biology approaches to understanding the physiological controls of seagrasses when exposed to dynamic and anthropogenically-modified conditions. I have been following the work of the Seagrass Health Research Group of the C3 Climate Change Cluster at UTS, particularly the group working on blue carbon, which is relevant to the context of Indonesia.

I'm also very interested in the marine herbivore grazing and sea grass preservation work done by the Centre for Marine Studies at Curtin University. The use of multibeam sonar systems for benthic habitat mapping of seagrass meadows is an important technology that could greatly improve the quality and scope of available data for Indonesia's vast seagrass meadows.

Indonesia's marine ecosystems is such an important part of the world's natural heritage. It represents the majority of global marine biodiversity and supports the world's second largest production of seafood. Seagrasses are a critical part of their survival.

I'm both open and flexible to discussing how I may fit into a group of seagrass researchers in Australia. I am very happy to begin a discussion with any potential supervisor who would be interested in a PhD project that we could conceptualise together.

I'm particularly interested in developing longer term collaborative research between Australia and Indonesia. There is still so much about our seagrasses to be investigated.

Thank You.