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## Enzymatic synthesis of furan-based polymers

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## About the Author

Dina Maniar (1991) was born and raised in Cimahi, Indonesia as the second of three children. She completed both her bachelor and master degrees at the Bandung Institute of Technology in Bandung, Indonesia. She majored in 'physical chemistry' and was a honours student. Dina's final bachelor research project 'Sulfonation of Nata De Coco for Applications as Fuel Cell Membrane' was done under the supervision of Prof. dr. ing. Cynthia L. Radiman, a collaboration that would continue throughout her higher education. During this time she also made the 'Dean's List for Academic achievement' on several occasions and was awarded merit-based funding twice.

Dina first became acquainted with the University of Groningen in the Netherlands during her master's. This is when she did a fully funded six-month project as part of the ZIAM-ITB Sandwich Master programme, which is a programme offered by the Zernike Institute for Advanced Materials (ZIAM) and the Bandung Institute of Technology. She conducted her six-months project at the 'Macromolecular Chemistry and New Polymeric Materials' group of Prof. dr. Katja Loos. Her project titled 'Enzymatic synthesis of Biobased Furan Polyamide' sparked her curiosity in enzymatic polymerization.

After her masters, she decided to come back to Groningen (the Netherlands) and pursue a Ph.D. degree in the same group. She applied and was granted the 'Indonesian Endowment Fund for Education (LPDP) Scholarship' awarded by the Ministry of Finance of Republic of Indonesia. This made it possible for her to start her Ph.D. programme in 2015 under the supervision of Prof. dr. Katja Loos (ZIAM, University of Groningen) and Prof. dr. ing. Cynthia L. Radiman (Bandung Institute of Technology). Her time as a Ph.D. student was marked by many accomplishments such as winning an NWO Poster Award (2015) granted by the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research, and a conference grant (2016) awarded by the LPDP. Dina also gained ample experience in supervising both undergraduate and graduate students. Additionally, she designed several front cover graphics for various scientific journals.

Her research interests are focused on the enzymatic polymerization of renewable polymer materials. Aside from chemistry, she loves to travel to preferably even colder climates than the Netherlands. In her spare time, she likes to play the saxophone and futsal.