

Member Spotlight

A monthly highlight featuring an ASEG member. All past member spotlights can be found in our newsletter [archive](#).



We welcome **Nikita Beloborodov** under the spotlight in this issue as he shares his enlightening story!

Nikita is a PhD Candidate of Exploration Geophysics at Curtin University and the recipient of the Laric Hawkins Award for the most innovative use of a geophysical technique from a paper presented at the ASEG Discover Symposium (ASEG2024).

My home country is famous for its beautiful winter, however, I always liked summer more. Unfortunately, summer only lasts around three months in Russia, so from my childhood I dreamed about living in a country with warm climate all year round. I started to look for opportunities to study abroad when I was doing my master's in mechanical engineering in 2021. Then, I started my way to PhD in Exploration Geophysics, beginning from learning English to pass the exam and be able to study in Australia and then application and selection process to the course enrolment. It worked out well, and starting mid-2023 I am doing my PhD in Curtin University's Centre for Exploration Geophysics.

1. For how long have you been a geophysicist?

One year and a half, since my enrolment in the university.

2. What do you like most about being a geophysicist?

It is exciting field as we apply it to the real problems and find various approaches to solve them. Another thing I like about it is that I do both physical tasks in the field and intellectual in the office, it creates best involvement in the research process.

3. If you weren't a geophysicist, what would you be?

I would be an engineer I guess because of my mindset type.

4. What is your best interview tip?

Prepare by looking at who is the company looking for, what are their key requirements for the role.

5. What's one thing that we wouldn't know about you?

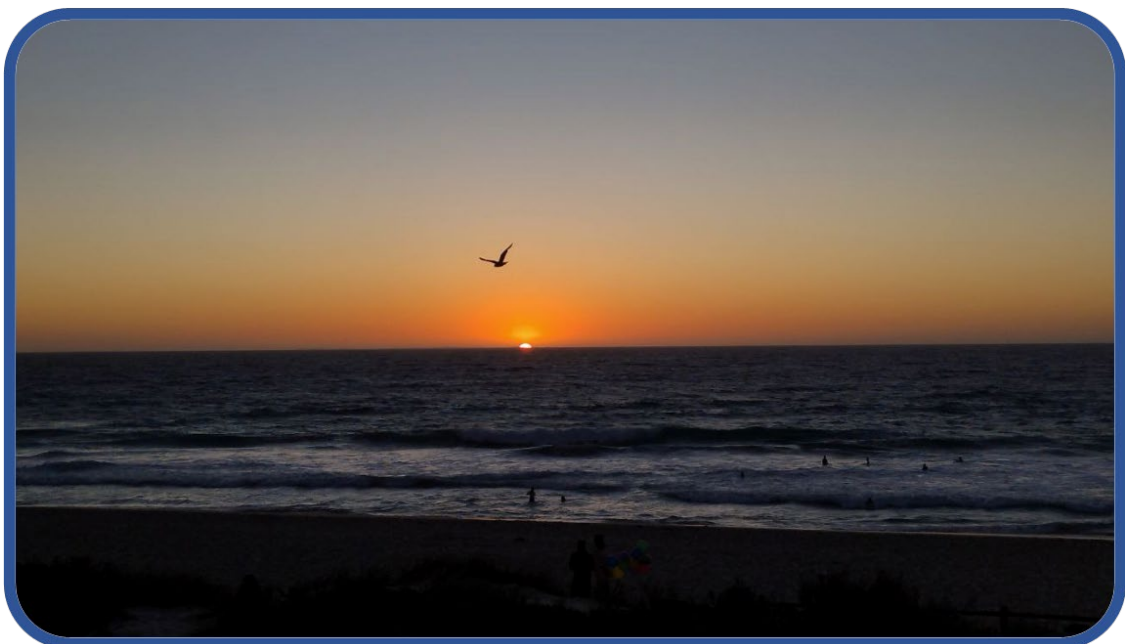
I love iconic Japanese cars made in 90s and have one myself.

6. Tell us about your best field meal.

It was beef medallions in the state of Victoria.

7. Where was your best sunrise/sunset location?

Scarborough Beach is quite good when the weather is right.



Scarborough Beach

8. What are you reading at the moment?

Some papers on time-lapse seismic and cross-hole measurements.

9. What made you decide to be a geophysicist?

An opportunity to study something new and live in Australia.

10. What's one thing you wish someone had told you when you were at university?

"Learn foreign language and apply for exchange study and internships"

11. What's your most treasured textbook?

I'm not sure, I haven't found one for now, I guess.

12. Your funniest or worst field memory?

Funniest is how we had to move cows from one paddock to another to deploy geophones on the empty one after.

13. Your most respected geophysicist?

For me it's not one person, but all my supervisors who help me with my studies.

14. What do you do in your spare time?

I like to be active so I can go to the gym, play beach volleyball or cycle. Sometimes I'm more in the mood to stay home and these days I spend cooking, playing videogames, and watching movies and TV-series.

15. What is a challenge you have overcome and how did you do so?

Started doing my PhD in Curtin and changed my professional field to a new one – geophysics.

16. What is a challenge that you see in geoscience today, and how do you see the community overcoming it?

Carbon Capture and Storage monitoring projects could be potentially more effective and precise, by advancements in technology, new tools and collaboration it is possible to tackle this challenge.

17. What reaction do you mostly get when you tell someone that you are a geophysicist?

"Sounds complicated, you're probably quite smart" or they look like they hear this word for the first time in their life.

18. When you are asked what you do – what do you do?

Short answer is that I'm doing a PhD in Exploration Geophysics, long answer depends on the specific topic.

19. What is the best way that the ASEG could let the public know about geophysics and its benefit to the everyday life?

I guess like with any field of science show some impressive experiments or examples of how it can affect everyday life.

20. Where do you think exploration geophysics will head in the next 10-15 years?

It is hard to predict, probably to more ML/AI driven studies.

21. Given a choice, would you prefer extra mentoring on the science, your career or the how to handle/explain exploration geophysics and its benefits to the community?

Extra mentoring on the career.