

UCTS Feedback

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Research Experience

My research focuses on **all-solid-state batteries**. Through the **UCTS program**, I had the opportunity to conduct summer research in one of the top laboratories in this field—the **Laboratory of Energy Storage and Conversion (LESC)**, led by Professor **Shirley Meng**.

This was by far the most intense, well-organized, and productive lab environment I've ever experienced. During my time there, I learned how experiments are designed from the ground up, and how researchers communicate their work in a systematic and professional way. I was given extensive hands-on opportunities—sometimes working **seven days a week during the final stretch** of the program. Despite the pressure, I found it extremely rewarding. The lab members, coming from various countries and backgrounds, were always willing to share their knowledge and help me improve. Thanks to this immersive experience, my research skills improved significantly over the summer.



University of Chicago Experience

The **University of Chicago** is undoubtedly home to **one of the most beautiful campuses in the world**—a seamless blend of historic architecture, modern buildings, and rich natural scenery. However, stepping outside the campus reveals a very different environment. UChicago is also known for its location in a **less safe neighborhood**, so we had to remain cautious whenever we went out.

Daily Life in Chicago

Food

Dining out in Chicago is significantly more expensive than in Taiwan—**around five to six times higher**—largely due to taxes and tipping culture. As a result, most of us preferred to cook meals together in the dormitory during weekdays, saving restaurant outings for weekends.



Transportation

Chicago's public transportation system is relatively convenient. I usually took the subway and university buses to commute. However, it's **not considered safe to use the subway at night**, especially near the UChicago area. For evening travel, we often relied on **Uber and Lyft**. Additionally, the university provides a helpful **free ride service** between 5 p.m. and 4 a.m., which made commuting at night much safer and more accessible.

Conclusion

This summer has been an **unforgettable and transformative experience**. It gave me the rare opportunity to learn and grow in a world-class lab, surrounded by passionate and talented individuals. I not only improved my technical skills but also made lasting friendships and explored a vibrant city. This will always be one of the most **valuable and memorable summers** of my life.

