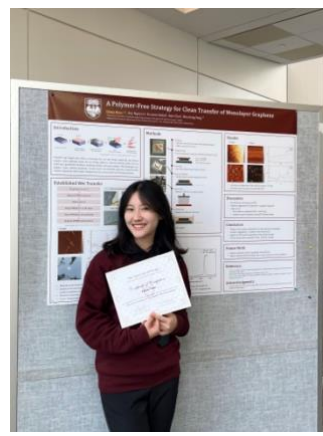
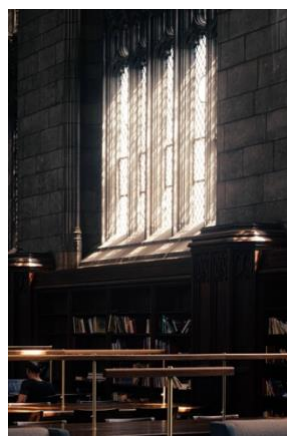


I am a senior chemical engineering student, and spending this summer at the University of Chicago has truly been an incredible experience. I would like to share my reflections in three parts: lab life, UCTS activities, and weekends in Chicago.

Lab Life

The campus of UChicago is beautiful, with its historic buildings and peaceful atmosphere. I really enjoyed walking through the campus every day, which also motivated me to spend more time in the lab. I was fortunate to join a supportive lab with a kind PI and mentor. From the very beginning, my PI welcomed me warmly, even arranging extra time to listen to my paper presentation before I arrived. Throughout the program, he met with me bi-weekly to follow my progress, and he also shared his own journey toward becoming a professor, which was very inspiring for me as I plan to pursue a PhD. On my last day, he even invited me to lunch, and our conversation left me with wonderful memories.

My mentor was also very supportive. Although I worked independently most of the time, he often discussed my results with me and helped with some measurements. The encouraging atmosphere in the lab made me more determined to pursue a PhD in the future.



UCTS Activities

The program was not only about research, but also about building connections. UCTS organized many meaningful activities, such as a picnic, a visit to TECO, and an afterparty at May June's villa. At the picnic, I met many alumni who generously shared advice about PhD applications, which was very valuable for me. During the TECO visit, I had my first Boba in the U.S. and joined a discussion with TECO officials about education and our perspectives as students.

One of my most touching moments happened at May June's villa. We enjoyed delicious food in a lively backyard party that felt just like an American TV show. Before I left, I asked to take a photo with her, and she not only agreed but also hugged me and encouraged me warmly, almost like a mother. It was such a heartwarming moment that I will always remember.



Weekends in Chicago

On weekends, I tried to check off everything on my Chicago bucket list. I went to NASCAR, the Air & Water Show, Skydeck, the Riverwalk, and even watched both the sunrise and the moonrise by the lake. NASCAR was an eye-opening experience, as I had never seen car racing before. Watching the sunrise was also special—I rarely wake up that early, but I managed to do it twice this summer, and the views were breathtaking.

I also enjoyed the city views from Chicago's tall buildings, something not as common in Taiwan. Among all, the Riverwalk was my favorite spot—it felt like paradise. On the last evening of the program, my friends and I sat by the river, chatting and having dinner together, which was the perfect way to end this unforgettable summer.

