

Student Profile

Wei-Lin Huang – Master of Science in Biomedical and Translational Science



Your Time at UCI

What made you decide to pursue a graduate degree?

As a researcher who focused on basic sciences, I felt frustrated when I tried to transfer my research result into a real product or treatment, because I am not familiar with the concept of clinical research. Besides, I am interested in how the diseases develop and progress in the different population, which also need to harness the concept of clinical research. Thus, I decide to pursue a gradated program that focus on learning the concept of clinical research.

Why did you choose to come to UCI?

After performing a thorough survey of available programs, I am very attracted to the Biomedical and Translational science program (BATS) at UCI. The BATS program focuses on teaching the basic concept of clinical research, including the medical statistics, health policy, measurement science, clinical trials design and analysis. All of these concepts are very important for me to become a clinical researcher. Besides, the BATS program provides student a chance to really use the knowledge they learn to conduct the clinical research during these two years. BATS program at UCI involves the knowledge learning and the independent research, which make it the best choice for me.

If you are conducting research, how would you explain your research and its significance to your grandparent?

My research focus on how our diet affect our health. There are different environmental exposures that we may intake from our diet. The pesticide exposure from the diet is the one that recently become popular. More and more foods are now detected with high level of pesticide residue, such as cereal, cookies and chips. However, there is only few researches focuses on how our diet will affect our health through the pesticide. Some pesticides are known to disrupt our endocrine system only by low dosage, so I focus on studying how these pesticides exposures affect women's breast health, which is consider easier to be affected by endocrine system.

What are your hobbies/passions outside of research?

I love to do gardening and cooking when I have free time. I sometimes go hiking with my friends. Watching movies and read novels is the thing that I will do to release the stress.

Reflections

What is your most memorable moment/experience at UCI to date?

The staffs in this program are really friendly and willing to help when I faced difficulties. When I couldn't find the mentor for my thesis, the professor in my program was happy to discuss with me about this issue and gave me some advices. The professor also referred me to the professor

that I want to work with. Besides, the coordinators in the program is very friendly and help student to figure out different problems. As an international student, the support from friendly staffs in my program are really important for me to pursue my degree in UCI and I truly appreciate their effort on helping me.

What advice do you have for a new graduate student in your program?

Open your mind to learn new things and involve yourself in the class even through you may not be familiar with the medical field. Ask more questions and discuss with classmates more, which can help you generate good idea for the thesis or your future career.

Career

What do you see yourself doing in five or ten years?

I will become a researcher either working on developing new therapies or study the development and progression of the disease in the population. I hope I can be in a team and working with people who have the same passion as I do.