

## Student Profile

### Amir Saeidi – Materials and Manufacturing Technology PhD Program



#### Your Time at UCI

What made you decide to pursue a graduate degree?

*When I was evaluating my paths to future, I was not sure if I want to necessarily pursue a graduate degree. At that time a friend told me that you earn and gain skills through graduate programs that become investments for your future professional and personal life.*

Why did you choose to come to UCI?

*When I got my admission from UCI, I asked a professor at my school whether I should choose this school. He said reputation of schools are earned due to greatness of them and that they are great first then they become popular. That UCI has a good reputation for a reason. I found out and witnessed many of those great reasons for myself during my time at UCI.*

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

*Some ceramics degrade at high temperatures, and they degrade even faster in the presence of water vapor. I am trying to explain the mechanisms of the degradation process by analyzing the movement of atoms and find out why water makes it faster. It is significant because we understand how we can prolong service life of these materials.*

What are your hobbies/passions outside of research?

*I enjoy playing cards, watching movies and listening to music. I hang out with friends, and go to the beach once in a while.*

#### Reflections

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

*When I was the student representative at Graduate Studies Committee, my goal was to address the graduate students' stress issue. My memorable moment at UCI was when after bringing up this topic in one of the meetings, the committee decided to create a taskforce to work on this issue.*

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

*Engage in activities other than research and improve your soft and professional skills. Meet new people and find the joy and excitement of student life while you can and as a student.*

### **Career**

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

*I am passionate about teaching and I see myself as a teaching professor.*

How do you hope to make a difference?

*As a teacher, I hope to make a difference by using scientific and research based teaching to empower my students with knowledge and skills they need for their future professional and personal life.*