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From September 1, 2024, to January 12, 2025, I had the opportunity to travel to Taiwan as an exchange student at Fu Jen Catholic University (FJU) in New Taipei City. This journey wasn't just about studying; it was an exploration filled with both academic research and immersion in a different culture.

During my 4 months and 12 days at FJU, I conducted short-term research in the Organic Chemistry Lab under the supervision of Associate professor Wei-min Liu. During this research, I learned to use NMR equipment and new synthesis techniques, such as coumarin and DNA probes. This experience deepened my understanding of organic chemistry and innovations that can be applied in medicine and technology. In addition to academics and research, I also had the privilege of participating in the 60th-anniversary celebration of the Chemistry Department at FJU. This event provided an excellent opportunity to meet professors and students from various countries and learn about working in an inspiring environment filled with new ideas. This journey wasn't only about academic growth, but also about expanding my horizons in many other ways: adapting to a new culture, exchanging knowledge, and growing as a person who can collaborate with people from different backgrounds and experiences.

Living and Exploring Taiwan

During my time in Taiwan, my routine was both productive and exciting. I spent five days a week working in the lab for 8 hours a day, diving deep into my research. The other two days were my time to recharge and explore everything Taiwan had to offer. These breaks allowed me to discover some incredible spots like the stunning Wulai Waterfall, the bustling Taipei Main Station, and the vibrant Ximen Night Market. Living abroad wasn't just about work, it was about immersing myself in a new culture, experiencing everyday life from a fresh perspective, and creating unforgettable memories. Whether I was hiking in the mountains, sampling delicious street food, or simply strolling through the city, every moment felt like a new adventure. It was the perfect balance of professional growth and personal discovery, all while being surrounded by the beauty and energy of Taiwan.