



The University of Akron  
**College of Polymer Science  
and Polymer Engineering**

# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Tell us about a talented student you want to see in the spotlight by emailing us at [cpspe-alumni@uakron.edu](mailto:cpspe-alumni@uakron.edu).

**Jiancheng Luo** is currently studying to earn his doctorate in Polymer Science under Dr. Tianbo Liu. Read more about Jiancheng and his academic journey in CPSPE.

## How does your major fit into your life's plan?

My ultimate goal is to make my best contribution to youth mentoring. I chose the polymer program following my undergraduate studies because it covers broad disciplines including physics, chemistry, materials, and biology. I learned how to think critically and work collaboratively during my Ph.D. research at UA, and I believe that we should share and teach these skills to the next generation.

## What have you learned that makes a difference to you?

I would say the ability to balance my personal life and research is the most important learning experience throughout these years. As a researcher in training, I have been working hard to explore different cutting-edge areas for new science. Meanwhile, as a student, I also need to focus on classes and relationships with my friends. I won't succeed in my future career without a proper balance between my life, family, and research.

## Why did you choose The University of Akron, specifically the College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering?

Through the 3+2 exchange program, I chose The University of Akron due to its world-renowned reputation in polymers. After obtaining my master's degree in 2015, I decided to continue my Ph.D. studies here because I like the multidisciplinary collaborations in CPSPE where I can continue broadening my knowledge and skillset.

## Tell us about your experience in an internship or research project.

The most challenging time for me was the transition period from my master's to Ph.D. research. I mostly followed the guidance from senior Ph.D. students during my master's research. However, this situation was totally flipped as I had to design new projects and synthesize new molecules to start my Ph.D. research. I had a difficult time, but thanks to the help of my friends and staff at UA, I was able to overcome these adversities, and now I feel comfortable facing any other challenges in the future. I have been given the opportunity to mentor several master's students as a senior Ph.D. student, which is a great experience for me.

## Who is your favorite professor (or staff person) and why?

I would definitely recommend my advisor, Prof. Tianbo Liu. He always values my proposed ideas and encourages me to put these ideas into practice, even if they do not work in the end. I believe that it is essential for students to learn from their failures during their Ph.D. training, and I'm grateful for my advisor's patience.

## What are your plans after graduation?

I'm looking for a post-doctoral position before being fully prepared for an academic career. I might feel a little stressful since academia is not an easy career path, however, I will remain positive in my career because I know this will benefit generation to generation, just how I benefited from Prof. Liu's mentoring.

