

No. 96 Heshun Street
Xizhi District, New Taipei City

February 10, 2023

Department of Pure and Applied Chemistry
College of Arts and Sciences
Visayas State University

To whom it may concern;

Good day, I would like to extend my greetings to the faculty and staff of the Visayas State University. A former colleague told me that there is a faculty position available in the Department of Pure and Applied Chemistry. This opportunity is interesting and makes me think I could be of help in your department.

I was previously working as a part-time college instructor at my alma mater, the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP). In PUP, I've been given the chance to teach core chemistry subjects to chemistry and non-chemistry students. The chemistry subjects I taught include general chemistry, analytical chemistry, organic chemistry, inorganic chemistry, and physical chemistry. My favorite back then was organic and physical chemistry. I also have the chance to teach integrated chemistry which serves as a review class for all chemistry subjects in preparation for the board exam. We also have a chem study group known as ELEMENTO which is composed of the best students in various areas of chemistry. From this group, we pick those that will compete in the PACSIKLABAN which is an inter-school chemistry quiz bee. I was once the team captain of this group when I was still studying. As a team captain, I prepare study materials and mini quizzes to train the team. When I became an Instructor, I volunteered to train ELEMENTO students and accompany them during PACSIKLABAN. The learning is mutual and I could say my skill in teaching improves a lot. I learn how to extend my explanations to satisfy not only the brightest students but also those that require more help. My goal is to teach them how to speed up their analytical thinking skills by teaching them approaches that are tested and working. I tend to create special mnemonics for chemistry topics as needed.

Aside from teaching experience, exposure to various types of research work is important to properly convey to students what chemistry is really like when they finish college. This is one of the reasons why I temporarily left teaching. I tried working in a research institution, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology. (PHIVOLCS). I stayed there for about two years. In PHIVOLCS, I am exposed to gas and rocks geochemistry and volcanic eruption forecasting. I got to work and make friends with foreign scientists from Germany, Indonesia, United States, Japan, etc. I feel I don't really know what it is like to be a chemist while I am still in PHIVOLCS so I decided to join a private company known as CRL environmental corporation. This company is a startup company and I was assigned as a sample control officer. What I was expecting is to learn more and get exposed to all sorts of analytical instruments but it is taking some time even before

the lab becomes ready. I was still trying to finish my MS chemistry thesis back then and working under a private company is not an ideal setup. I moved to work under my thesis advisor at the University of the Philippines Diliman where I got to work on my thesis and at the same time engage in his project which is the development of a monitoring instrument for particulate matter. When I finished my thesis and graduated, I applied to the career incentive program (CIP) offered by DOST. The program allows us to work in any DOST office of our choice. I joined the Philippine Textile Research Institute (PTRI). In PTRI, I've been exposed to research related to the introduction of smart properties to textile substrates by chemical modification and surface finishing. After my contract in CIP, I moved to Singapore because I got accepted as a Research Associate at the Earth Observatory of Singapore (EOS) under the Nanyang Technological University. This job helps me reach various places in the world where I have never been before. Aside from that, they give me the chance to present my work at international conferences. In EOS, I was assigned to script development, data population, and algorithm development to help improve volcanic eruption management. I was part of the WOVodat project which is the world organization of volcano observatories database. After 2.5 years of stay, I decided it was time for me to start my Ph.D.

Now, I am currently a Ph.D. candidate in the Bioinformatics Program of Academia Sinica Taiwan in collaboration with the National Tsinghua University. This Ph.D. program is the embodiment of all the knowledge and skills I learned from chemistry, mathematics, programming, my chem degree, and my previous jobs. It allows me to somehow use all those skills. It also allows me to engage in research related to health sciences, drug discovery, biological modeling, etc.

With all this, I think I have both teaching experience and research exposure to qualify to become a better teacher. This time, I will have all these stories to tell, to inspire students, and to guide them on what options this world has to offer. I may not have encountered all potential options but the path I've been through is probably something where students can learn from. I have a lot of ideas and projects in mind that are achievable for developing countries that will still have a decent impact on the scientific community.

I would like to reiterate my interest to apply in a faculty position in your institution. I am about to defend my dissertation and hope to have the Ph.D. degree before April.

I can be reached via my cell phone, +886910503944 and my email, efajiculay@yahoo.com. Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to speaking with you about this employment opportunity.

Sincerely yours,


Erickson Fajiculay

Ph.D. Candidate
NTHU Taiwan
Institute of Chemistry, Academia Sinica