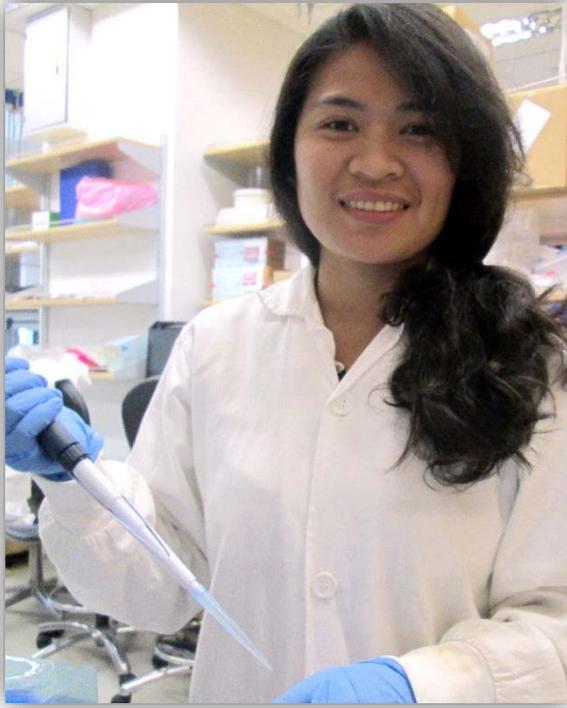


Professional Science Master's Scholar

Ma. Fatima Carla T. Bertulfo

University of the Philippines Los Baños



PSM Degree
US University
Date of Completion
GPA

Master of Biotechnology
Pennsylvania State University
December 2015
3.96

Master of Biotechnology

Penn State's PSM degree in Biotechnology combines an intensive science-based curriculum with a practical understanding of the many aspects of the biotechnology industry. It aims to equip students with the necessary skills that would make them successful in the biotechnology industry and its related fields.

As a PSM student, what was the highlight of your study?

Aside from the very intense courses that were very educational, I would say the highlight of my study was my research internship at the prestigious National Cancer Institute, U.S. National Institutes of Health. The said internship has fueled my interest for biomedical science, particularly cancer research.

In what way has the USAID scholarship changed you?

The USAID scholarship has allowed me to grow in several aspects. It has tremendously boosted my knowledge in the field that I am interested in. It also developed my interpersonal communication skills, which is very essential for success in any field. Lastly, it opened up a lot of very exciting opportunities for me to further develop my professional skills after earning my degree.

How would you use your degree to contribute or influence economic growth in the country?

Having learned the principles and concepts in both the biotechnology industry and research sector, I intend to help in bridging the gap between the two. In the future, I would want to continue doing research in the Philippines while fostering a dynamic collaboration with the biotechnology industry.

As a young scientist, what do you envision for the Philippine science, technology and innovation ecosystem in the next 10 years?

In the next ten years, I hope that the Philippine science, technology and innovation ecosystem would be more dynamic and productive. This would be possible if the science and technology sector becomes one of the top priorities of the Philippine government.

Carla is currently working as a Research Assistant in the laboratory of Dr. Takaomi Sanda at the Cancer Science Institute, National University of Singapore, where she is involved in the study on how transcription factor and tyrosine kinase abnormalities can be used as therapeutic targets in cancer. She also plans to pursue a doctorate in Biomedical Science in the future.