

Elena Alicia Robles Molina

From: Chihuahua, Mexico

Studies: Ph.D, Agricultural & Biological Engineering

Why did you choose Purdue?

I had already considered Purdue for a semester abroad during my undergrad. I knew the bioprocesses program was one of the best in the USA and probably one of the best in the world. I later found about the global engineering program and some of the great collaborations Purdue has with national scholarships like CONACyT. I started reading about the possible research opportunities within ABE and the highly qualified professors with incredible projects and all the attention from fellow grad students and other staff convinced me I was making the right decision.

What is your favorite fact about Purdue?

That this is truly one of the best schools in the world but everyone in staff and students is simple and willing to help you.

Please briefly describe your research:

My research is based environmentally friendly processes. Right now, I am working in finding a practical design for an enzymatic reaction to make soybean epoxides from vegetable oil. These molecules can later be applied as lubricants, plasticizers, sealants, and many more industrial things and can also give vegetable oil and extra market to exploit. The enzymatic reaction helps us by eliminating the use of harsh chemicals such as phosphoric acid and concentrated acetic acid and replacing it with a mild concentration of Hydrogen peroxide. The whole deal of this research is to have a process stable enough to produce many liters of epoxides without spending all our money on super expensive enzymes. These enzymes although common (you can find them in laundry detergent and are use in some paper processing) can be very expensive and delicate (They get oxidized and loose their activity) so we need to find a way to reuse them many times.

If you have free time, how do you choose to spend it?

I love walking around campus, there is always something new to see or learn. I also enjoy going to the COREC usually go everyday to disconnect and get the ideas flowing playing racquetball.

Where do you spend most of your time on campus?

Laboratory in POTR Engineering building.

If you have free time, how do you spend it?

Watching movies and talking to family and friends.

Current mobile device/computer:

LG G6

What apps, software, or tools can't you live without?

I can't live without Spotify and Netflix to be honest.

What's your workspace setup like?

I usually am in a big office space, I have 7 office mates and in the same room we have a medium size dinner with fridge, microwaves, coffee machine and a sink. That is our office space, it is in the



same building as all the labs I work at.

What everyday thing are you better at than everyone else?

I am pretty good at staying positive and being persistent patiently.

What's your sleep routine like?

I am a sloth. My sleeping schedule usually depends on how I am babysitting my experiments but I always make time for sleeping.

How do you recharge physically and/or mentally?

Walk or work out. Always helps.

What's the best advice you've ever received?

Always verify the pros and cons of a decision..

What is (are) your career goal(s)?

Get to be a consultant working on my own time.

Where to find you on Social Media?

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/elena.robles92>

IN: @elena.rob92

Request Information

www.purdue.edu/grad

E-mail: gradinfo@purdue.edu

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Purdue is centrally located in West Lafayette, Indiana - approximately two hours south of Chicago, Illinois and one hour north of Indianapolis, IN.

Questions? Email gradinfo@purdue.edu

