

As a member of the Board of the Russian school Physics Olympiad I have known Ivan Ivanov since 1997, when he was in high school. His prominent knowledge of Physics revealed even then. He won 1st diploma at the Russian school physics olympiad in 1997 and 1998 that allowed him to become one of the 16 candidates to, and later one of the members of the Russian team on the 29th IPhO in Reykjavik (Iceland), where he was awarded Gold Medal.

Among other winners of the Russian Olympiad Ivan took part in winter (two weeks) and summer (a month) sessions of candidates to the team in 1998. The sessions included advanced lectures on physics. Seminars devoted to theoretical problems and intensive laboratory courses were alternated with frequent rounds of problem solving contests designed to reduce the number of candidates from 16 to 5. From the beginning he had been placed first in our unofficial rating, and his perseverance, purposefulness and diligence enabled him to enter the final membership of Russian team. During the time of sessions Ivan showed ability of quick perception of new ideas and using them in future, high intelligence and capacity for work.

When Ivan entered MIPT, he continued working hard, therefore his grades, despite very high requirements to students, were only excellent. Ivan was awarded Landau Institute of Theoretical Physics and “Eximer” Fellowships (both of which are awarded to 2 students among the faculty of some 80 students). He has twice become the winner of Physics Olympiad among students of MIPT. He was also awarded Soros student grant. I believe that with his persistence and capacity Ivan will maintain the way he started.

There is an established tradition that students who have won the IPhO in previous years work as instructors in the sessions of the succeeding IPhO teams. Ivan Ivanov is one of such students. Being the leader of the training team I highly appreciate Ivan’s activity. Students invent problems to solve, give seminars, laboratory classes and examine schoolboys’ knowledge of physics. Ivan demonstrated brilliant mental abilities and theoretical skills, so we decided to try him as a member of the Board of the Final Stage of Russian PhO in 1999. I was impressed by his performance, so Ivan was invited to the Board permanently. He is one of a few students who is a permanent Jury member of such a high-level Olympiad. I have no doubts that this activity gave him an excellent teaching practice.

Working at MIPT for many years I can compare Ivan’s abilities with those of other

MIPT students. For the last 10 years I have known several students like Ivan quite well. For example XX and XX (both are graduate students at Harvard now), XX and XX (they are graduate students at MIT), XX (now he is a graduate student at Cornell), XX and XX (they are graduate students at Princeton), XX (he is a graduate student at University of California at Berkeley). All of them participated in the USSR Physics Olympiad and IPhO brilliantly, and used to work as instructors in the sessions of the previous IPhO teams. I think all of them (including Ivan Ivanov) belong to the top 2% of MIPT students.

Ivan has a strong and motivated desire to be a scientist. He is diligent, bright-minded and trust-worthy in every way. I'm deeply convinced that students displaying such talantes as Ivan's, are able to study at graduate level successfully. Thus I strongly recommend Ivan Ivanov for further education at your University.

Sincerely yours,

Petr P. Petrov

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