

I am very pleased to write on behalf of Irina Ivanova who asked me to recommend her for admission to Harvard University. I know Irina for almost 3 years during which I am her scientific advisor at P.N.Lebedev Physical Institute RAS (LPI).

The major research subjects of Vavilov Luminescence Department of LPI are luminescence of the organic and crystalline substances and fundamental aspects connected with that. Irina's work towards Master's Degree in Physics is currently proceeding in the framework of NATO. Our first results are going to be published soon.

Mainly she is connected with experimental work concerning creating thin solid films such as Langmuir-Blodgett films, spin-coated and self-assembled films. As a Physics teacher at Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology (MIPT) I should admit that her theoretical knowledge on the subject was exceptionally strong even in the Department of General and Applied Physics, the best one of MIPT. Although in the beginning Irina certainly lacked experience in this field, but now she undoubtedly possesses remarkable skills in spectroscopy, nanotechnology and advanced microscopy techniques.

Irina has shown herself a goal-oriented and hardworking student with an adequate response to the most challenging tasks in very complicated russian conditions. She revived the ruined Langmuir-Blodgett facility in our lab with practically no support from the trained personnel. I should notice here that in our men community she manages to co-operate and even be a leader when achieving her objects. Her intuitive feeling for the spectroscopy experiments was of great help through the everyday activity of our laboratory.

I should also mention her excellent proficiency in English, which is always of great support to our laboratory. She helps the staff in communication with foreign collaborators and what is more important in the text preparation for the English-language publications as well as grant application materials.

Due to the economical situation in Russia nowadays adequate financing for the Academy of Sciences is quite unstable. In existing conditions it is rather hard for our students to entirely reveal all their talents and potentials. Therefore I strongly advise Irina to apply to graduate school in the USA. I am convinced that her capability of independent creativity and hard learning will make her future studying successful and scientific activities effective.

Sincerely yours,

Prof. Petr P. Petrov