

I have known Ivan Ivanov for two years. Being a second-year student he attended my lectures on Electromagnetic Field Theory and in the next academic year – lectures on Quantum Mechanics I. While he was studying my course I was surprised of his remarkable abilities of learning and grasping the essence of new ideas. Several times we discussed problems beyond the scope of my courses, and Ivan demonstrated proficiency in this areas, as well as strong analytical abilities. Upon completing each course of lectures I examined him. In both exams Ivan showed deep understanding of the subject and I gave him excellent marks.

Year ago Ivan seriously decided to involve himself in theoretical physics. He was determined to join Landau Institute theory group, where he could be engaged in studying any field of theoretical physics most effectively. This group is not an ordinary one. The point is that from very beginning every undergraduate student is attached to a certain department (at the Faculty of General and Applied Physics) but he can rather easily change the department. But enrolment in Landau Institute theory group is based on the results of special examination, called Landau Theoretical Minimum. It requires knowledge of some material which is not included in the curriculum and therefore had to be studied by Ivan himself. As the number of vacancies is much fewer than the number of students who wish to join the group the contention is really competitive: most students fail to pass the examination although they have enough knowledge to receive excellent marks at the ordinary exams in theoretical physics. By now Ivan have passed Theoretical Minimum exams in Field Theory (Electromagnetic and Gravitational) and Quantum mechanics. That Ivan passed them successfully characterizes him as a person who has great will and the potential to study theory in physics.

Taking all this into account, I consider Ivan as one of the best students I know and enthusiastically recommend him for graduate study at Your University.

Yours sincerely,

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