

Astronomy Olympiads in Romania

Teodor Bichir

1 My Journey

Hi, I am Teodor Bichir. I discovered astronomy at the start of high school, in 9th grade. Initially, I declined to join the astronomy club held by older students, however when we studied celestial mechanics in physics, my eyes lit up and I wanted to do astronomy. I got lucky because I was a bit younger, so I was still a junior in 9th grade. This allowed me to understand astronomy better and thus I was able to earn 2nd place in both national phase and selection and qualify for IOAA jr. and IAO. There I won silver and bronze medals respectively and thus my international journey started. From there on out I continued to study in parallel with physics and since I have won a 3rd and 1st place at the national olympiad, two silver medals at USAAAO and a gold and a bronze medal at IOAA.

2 Astronomy Olympiads in Romania

There are 3 stages to qualify for the international olympiad in Romania.

- First is the county phase in which we take a theory exam that includes a sky map problem, and everyone over half the points qualifies to the national.
- The national phase is where medals are given, and we have 4 exams: theory, data analysis, sky map, and telescope. We separate into 4 sections: juniors 1 (5th and 6th grades), juniors 2 (7th and 8th grades), seniors 1 (9th and 10th grades) and seniors 2 (11th and 12th grades). From here on out, top 15 juniors go to the third phase, joined by top 15 seniors and 5 best seniors 1 that didnt make it.
- The third phase is the selection exam, made up of 5 exams, simulating the IOAA or IOAA jr (the 4 + planetarium). Top 5 seniors qualify for IOAA and top 5 juniors qualify for IOAA jr.