I finished high school at the end of May, and since then the most significant event for me has been the upcoming International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) 2015 in Thailand. In June, I participated in a 20-day long team training session after which, I prepared for two weeks by myself.

It was very important for me to also prepare psychologically as I was stressed, and had to mentally prepare myself for the contest. I solved a lot of problems to become more confident in my skills, exercised a lot, and worked on staying focused and competitive.

We left for Thailand a week earlier to adapt and get ready for the competition. Every day of contest I would re-read the advice of my coach and do the exercise and meditation that my karate instructor had taught me. All the efforts and preparation paid off: I solved the problem that few contestants did and finally won gold.

The IMO was a fantastic experience – like a great international party where we had lots of fun with friends from all around the world. However, I also felt sorrowful towards the end, as math Olympiads had been the passion of my life and were over for me.

After IMO I spent two weeks with my parents and my brother’s family. We stayed in a summer cottage in a forest near a big lake. I played with my nephews (who are 15, 13 and 11 years old) and felt relaxed and carefree like a child.

In August, I went to a summer math camp with two of my friends for 3 weeks as an instructor. We mostly used materials from previous years, changing them slightly. However, there was not enough material on the two topics I wanted to teach: cross-ratio and complex numbers in geometry. Hence, I prepared materials and homework for students using my lecture notes and the beautiful problems I encountered in math contests. I really enjoyed working with children who are as interested in math as I am.

After summer I started to study at the Faculty of Cybernetics of Kyiv National University. The main curriculum was mainly familiar to me, so I took advanced additional classes in linear algebra at the Institute of Theoretical Physics. I also focused on improving my English and preparing for TOEFL.

I keep contributing to the Ukrainian math Olympiad community, now as an instructor and a jury member. I teach in an Olympiad math club for high school students, and I prepare materials and select problems myself. I also volunteer as a jury member for Olympiads, which is interesting and challenging because it is not easy to find a fair score for each solution.

Since my prospect of competing in math Olympiads ended with high school, now I have more time for my hobbies. I have learned some Japanese on my own before, as I am fascinated by contemporary Japanese culture. I finally started taking Japanese language classes which make me very happy. I also have more time for my favorite sports – volleyball and karate, which I practice regularly.