

Personal statement

2013, Natural Sciences (Physics), Trinity College

I have been interested in science since my childhood. I found it fascinating to understand how the world works, and science seemed the most successful way to find answers for my questions. I started to learn science subjects at the age of 13. The mathematical method that physics uses impressed me then: it was a great pleasure to find that nature obeys laws that can be described in a simple mathematical way. This particularity of physics turned my interest mainly to this science.

I attend Leőwey Klára Secondary School in my city, Pécs, which is among the best ones in Hungary. Here I take an increased number of lessons in Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry. The teachers I met in the school gave me inspiration not for only learning science subjects but kept me open to everything: literature, history and so on. We have to learn two languages in school: I chose English and German. I took the School Leaving Exam in English Language in 2011 and I plan to pass the Deutsches Sprachdiplom C1 this winter. I attend the theoretical preparation class for the International Physics Olympiad (IPhO) in Budapest and Pécs.

My greatest strength is surely physics. The most notable result I have achieved so far was the absolute 1st place at the 43rd International Physics Olympiad this year and the 1st place at the Rudolf Ortvy Competition in Physics for university students. Besides them, I achieved several good results at Hungarian national competitions: I won the Mikola Sándor National Physics Competition twice in 2010 and 2011 and the National Olympiad in Physics in 2012; I have reached the 2nd place at the Eötvös Competition in Physics which is the most notable national competition in this subject. I participated in the 42nd IPhO in 2011 too: there I was awarded a silver medal.

Besides physics, I have considerable achievements in mathematics, too: the most notable of them is my gold medal and absolute 2nd place at the 6th Middle European Mathematical Olympiad in 2012. Other than these I am particularly interested in chemistry and Computer Science. However, in these subjects I have no such outstanding results: I have achieved a 9th place at the National Olympiad in Computer Science and an 18th place in a national mailing competition in chemistry.

I like dealing with science not just because of competitions. There were topics in physics and mathematics I concerned in depth: because of my interest, I learnt scientific concepts beyond the secondary school curriculum (via Internet, mostly read in English). I am interested in programming as well, mainly physical simulations. I find research fascinating and I am ambitious in doing that as a profession.

Together with my physics teacher we lead an afternoon class about introductory modern physics as a preparation for a special national competition. The curriculum of this group was published as a book in 2009 by the organizers of the mentioned competition. Beside these I try to help my class- and schoolmates in learning mathematics and physics as I can.

Besides my academic career it is very important for me to be a complete personality in all parts of life. Though I am open to everything, I am active mainly in arts. What I am most interested in is photography: I do it at an amateur level, however, I find both artistic and technical features of modern photography stunning and I am really into getting to know them in depth. I had some experiments with literature (mainly essays), too.

I am a hard-working and intent student, for whom challenge is important. I think the supervision system of Cambridge would help me to bring out the best of myself: sharing ideas with fellow students should be stimulating. Cambridge is widely known as one of the best universities in the world, especially in natural sciences: this fame must imply that all students have a positive attitude towards studying. That is why I think Cambridge would be the ideal place for my university studies.