

Personal Statement

2008, Computer Science, Churchill College

My first experience with Computer Science was in Cambridge when I participated in the First Lego League robotics competition. I worked with a team of 9 fellow students to design, build and program a lego robot. After this experience, I learned about programming and algorithms through various competitions. I am interested in the theory behind computers and enjoy doing the mathematics needed.

I study at a special school for mathematics in Hungary where I have 7 classes in maths a week. I also have the opportunity to participate in a number of competitions in maths, physics and informatics. As preparations for contests, I solved a great deal of algorithmical problems from books, attended special lectures for those in the advanced rounds of the competitions, and went to maths camps. I have placed in many competitions (including the national physics competition) but I am most proud of the silver medal won in the International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI) in Egypt and the bronze medal won in the Central-European Olympiad in Informatics (CEOI) in Germany.

More important than my achievements so far is my attitude towards learning: I am hard-working, open-minded and creative. I also like to initiate projects and work with others to realize them. Recently, I have:

1. been an assistant for the Hungarian round of the Lego Robot League;
2. organised a school-wide game theory experiment - <http://gameexp.fazekas.hu> - English;
3. participated in the 2minutechallenge;
4. am organising a web programming class;
5. created an Online knowledge base (Encyclopedia), which won the first prize several times in the annual school digital work competition - <http://lexikon.fazekas.hu> - Hungarian;
6. organised a school-wide IQ test-like competition that I created.

Besides Computer Science, I have studied French (intermediate language exam), won first prize in a literature writing competition in the humour category and have a passion for playing every style of guitar music.

I have a Cambridge FCE language exam result of A (>80%). I am accustomed to reading computer-related information on the internet and have interpreted my mathematics classes for American visitors.

Why Cambridge?

I visited the University of Cambridge in January 2008 to decide if it was the right place for me. A postgraduate student (Cecily Morrison) showed us the university, the colleges, and the computer laboratory. I attended lectures, a supervision and saw how people do research. The lectures were interesting and I find the supervision system very useful. In supervisions, the students can study some areas in more depth and in a personal order and speed. What I find the most important however, is the environment. Cambridge is the best place for developing new ideas and working on projects with intelligent people.

While I was in Cambridge I visited most of the colleges and asked many people's opinion on which college was best for computer science. Alex Benton recommended Churchill College because it has very good supervision and a strong community of Computer Science working on projects.

Studying and working on projects in Cambridge would serve as the best base for doing research or having a career in industry.