

For me, arriving at the decision to study chemistry and to go into research later on was a long process. My first love was mathematics and when I first encountered chemistry I had no intention to be unfaithful; I didn't see the logic right away and was afraid of the confusingly many elements in the periodic table. But gradually, they became my best friends. By the time I got to know more about their structure, their interactions and their different states, I was hooked, and chemistry had become an essential part of my life.

As my enthusiasm grew, I started going to competitions, and managed to achieve 1st place at the Irinyi National Chemistry Olympiad. While in 10th grade I finished 6th at National Chemistry Olympiad for 11th and 12th grade students and got invited to the International Chemistry Olympiad preparation programme. This was my first encounter with topics like advanced organic chemistry, kinetics and thermodynamics, which pushed me further towards chemistry. I not only learned a lot but also came second among those students who did not finish school that year and thus I was eligible to attend the 49th Mendeleev Chemistry Olympiad in Armenia. This was my first international competition with over 100 students from 15 countries and I managed to get a bronze medal. This experience inspired me to work even harder in order to compete with the very best students from other countries. In 2015 I finished 4th at the National Chemistry Olympiad and again attended the IChO preparation, where I succeeded in qualifying both for the IChO and Mendeleev Olympiad to be held in 2016. My hard work was rewarded with a gold medal at the 47th International Chemistry Olympiad in Azerbaijan, which was my greatest achievement to date. This year I also finished 1st at the George Olah National Chemistry Competition out of 290 competitors and achieved an honourable mention at the Organic Chemistry Competition for undergraduate students.

To gain experience in real research I conducted a small research project with the Drug Development Research Group of the Hungarian Science Academy. My work consisted of two parts, I studied a diacylation reaction in the laboratory and also did computational calculations to determine the chemoselectivity of the reaction. For the paper I wrote about this I received the second prize in a scientific essay competition. As I really enjoyed this work I continued with another research project into molecular dynamics simulations, which is on-going.

Given my interest in maths, I attended the preparation for the International Mathematics Olympiad and also participated in competitions. My best results were a 15th place at the Arany Daniel National Mathematics Competition and coming 5th in Hungary's biggest correspondence competition in mathematics, which lasts 9 months. In physics I finished 6th at the Szilard National Competition. Apart from science I also like languages and study German and French. In my free time I enjoy sports, especially football, which I have played in a club for 10 years. This year I attended the World Science Conference Israel as part of the Hungarian delegation. It brought together more than 400 students from 71 countries and gave me the opportunity to listen to lectures by 15 Nobel laureates. It was a great inspiration listening to them sharing the lessons of their scientific career. I learnt a lot about

enthusiasm and modesty which are important for becoming a successful researcher. Working in groups with students from different countries who were interested in various aspects of science also gave me a taste of what international scientific collaboration is like.

My greatest motivation in science is to understand the world, and I love the feeling of having understood a phenomenon, as well as being able to explain it to others.

I want to study at a top university in the UK to be at a place where modern science happens, studying with the best students and learning from top-notch scientists.