

Mathematics has always been a fundamental feature in my life. Since early childhood I have become familiar with this science in a variety of different ways. The seed of love for Mathematics, and other Physical Sciences connected to it, was planted long before I attended any kind of school. For me Mathematics provides knowledge, excitement and, above all, challenge.

My future plan is to learn Pure Mathematics as well as its applications to Physics. I have read with great interest several articles, popular science texts and more advanced books on Pure Mathematics, Astrophysics and String Theory, including, in order of preference, *The Mathematical Experience*, by Davis and Hersh, *The Book of Numbers*, by Conway and Guy, *The Elegant Universe* by Greene and *How to Read and do Proofs* by Solow, to name just a few.

While I was attending public school in my country, I completed several GCE qualifications, since I decided long ago that I would like to pursue my studies in England. Both at school and in the GCE qualifications, I achieved grades that some would say represent my hard-working and easy-learning character. I was the best student in my school, the oldest and most respected public school in Cyprus, and also the school's Emblem-bearer of 2004. Even the not-so-flattering "B" Grade in A Level Computing was partly due to the fact that I was very young, just 14 years old, at the time.

I have applied mathematical reasoning in almost every aspect of my life, even in areas that appeared to be disconnected with mathematics. While attending school I participated in several National and International Competitions in Mathematics and Physics. In almost every national contest I scored in the top ten of my region or country. I managed to join the group representing Cyprus in the Junior Balkan Mathematical Olympiad in 2001, where I was awarded a bronze medal. I was also a member of the National team of Cyprus for the International Physics Olympiad held in Pohang, Korea in 2004. In July 2004 I obtained a place in Cyprus University in the Mathematics and Statistics Department by scoring almost full marks in the Physics and Mathematics modules.

For four consecutive years I attended the "Summer School in Mathematics" in Agros, Cyprus, which consisted of 15 hours of classes during one week on different aspects of algebra, geometry, number theory, probability and introductory topology. A truly challenging and exciting experience. I feel very attracted to number theory. This is partly due to the very nice sets of lectures by Prof. Lygeros at the Summer Schools. I also love everything related to proof. What had a deep impact on me was the first proof by contradiction that I was taught when I was 14: the irrationality of the square root of two.

I am proficient at using several computer programs such as Pascal, Mathematica, Graphmatica, Word-Processing with equations, etc, and I have used them for perfecting various science projects I have written. Some of these projects concern a syllabus going beyond that of public schools and GCE.

Besides my mathematical experiences, I was an active member of a theatrical group in my school in 2001, 2003 and 2004. I published several articles in our school newspaper (both science-oriented and general publications) and participated in a UNESCO Symposium for Cyprus Secondary Schools in March 2004, and in several debates and presentations. I also took part in a series of radio programs at a local station concerning teenage problems. In 2000 I received the bronze medal in the National Archery Contest.

I am currently doing my obligatory military service until January 2005 but am, in parallel, reading popular science and academic scientific books concerning Pure Mathematics and Physics.

My main priority is to study in England due to the universally recognized high level of English Universities, their superior organization and great research opportunities. O que é que ele pode contribuir para o ambiente