

Autobiography
Atanas Stefanov
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Bio



I am Atanas Stefanov, 17 years old, currently living in Plovdiv, Bulgaria. By May 2019 I will have finished my education in 'Acad. Kiril Popov' High School of Mathematics, with a third degree of professional qualification in the sphere of Systems Programming.

Nevertheless, it has been a lifelong dream of mine to become a Professional Astronomer. My first approach to Astronomy was in early 2008, when I discovered the Internet and became a regular player in ConQUIZtador¹. I crossed paths with Competitive Astronomy when I turned 12, and I have been a member of the Extended Bulgarian National Team of Astronomy since.

Unfortunately, I haven't had a desirable amount of support by governmental institutions throughout my education in the sphere of Astronomy in the face of my school or any astronomical societies. Regardless, I have expanded my knowledge in Astronomy, Physics and Mathematics primarily on my own, enough to progress and excel at Astronomy Olympiads for four consecutive years (and counting), which I consider a great individual achievement of mine. I take this field of science quite seriously and I hope I can find a bright future within it.

¹ConQUIZtador - an online trivia game with heavy strategical element, created in 2002 in Hungary. Players must answer blitz questions correctly in a particular sphere of human knowledge in order to win.

Hobbies and fields of interest

Mathematics

My high school requires me to be highly proficient at Pre-Calculus Mathematics. I have also acquired a good understanding of Spherical Geometry, Calculus and Basic Statistics as a part of my extracurricular activities involving Astronomy.

Physics

I consider myself to be satisfactorily proficient in most Physics chambers, as I feel most comfortable with Classical Mechanics. I am aware that Physics plays a considerably large part in Astronomy as a science, which is enough of a reason to keep studying it tirelessly.

Literature

Apart from reading particular Astrophysics literature, I enjoy reading classic and philosophical novels. Some of my favourite novels are '1984', 'Lord of the Flies', 'One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest'.

Travelling

I have visited a lot of European countries, such as: United Kingdom, France, Switzerland, Italy, Austria, Hungary, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Greece, Turkey, as a part of educational purposes. I enjoyed every single moment abroad, as it was a good opportunity for me to explore unknown cultures and point of views, making me more tolerant and open-minded towards the modern world.

Music

I consider myself as an melomaniac, quite fond of all rock genres - Classic Rock, Modern Rock, Indie Rock, Alternative Rock etc. It is hard for me to choose a favourite music artist, but the ones that have been influencing me the most are Pink Floyd and Alt-J.

Video games

I've spent thousands of hours on video games, particularly first-person-shooters. I've played video games since 2012, both as a casual player and a semi-professional competitor.

Chess

Chess has been always astounding me with its variety and complexity. Regardless not belonging to a high rated skill group (70% online percentile), I enjoy chess and I do play it on a daily basis.

Skills developed

Spoken languages

- **Bulgarian: fluent.** Native language.
- **English: fluent.** Studied for 12 years as a primary language.
- **Russian: conversational.** Studied for 2 years as a secondary language.

Programming languages

- **C++: proficient.**
- **HTML: proficient.**
- **L^AT_EX: proficient.**
- **CSS: familiar.**
- **PHP: familiar.**
- **Python: familiar.**

General software

- **OS:**
Windows 95, Windows 98, Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows 7
- **Office:**
MS Office 2010, MS Office 2013, MS Office 2016
- **Graphics editing:**
Adobe Photoshop PS3, Adobe Photoshop PS5
- **Video editing:**
Sony Vegas Pro 8, Sony Vegas Pro 9

Highest awards

Achieved

- Competitor for the Extended BNTA², 2015
- Competitor for the Extended BNTA², 2016
- Participation in XXI IAO³, 05.-13.10.2016, Smolyan
- Competitor for the Extended BNTA², 2017

Upcoming

- Invitation to Extended BNTA², 2018
- Participation in EUCYS⁴ 2018, 14.-19.2018, Dublin

²Bulgarian National Team of Astronomy

³International Astronomy Olympiad

⁴European Union Contest for Young Scientists