

Raised in a family where the spirit of competition has a significant role, it was clear to me at a young age that I would choose a profession in which relentless self-improvement and perseverance are not only advantages but prerequisites. Looking for the fulfilment of these values, I am confident that, in the field of natural sciences, I can anticipate a career in which my talents will reach their full potential.

To accomplish these goals and become a successful scientist, I have participated in six international and more than 20 national competitions in biology, chemistry and physics; furthermore, I was a junior research fellow for three years.

In 2019, I took part in my first international competition, winning a silver medal in the International Junior Science Olympiad (IJSO) in Qatar. Two years later, I participated in the European Olympiad of Experimental Sciences (EOES) as the chemist in my team, achieving the coveted first prize. In the same year, I was a delegate to the International Biology Olympiad (IBO) and won a silver medal. In 2022, I took part in three olympiads and gained three silver medals in chemistry: the International Mendeleev Chemistry Olympiad (IMChO) in Uzbekistan, the International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) in Slovenia and the International Chemistry Tournament (IChTo) in Hungary. The last is an unparalleled competition in which cooperating team members must solve open-ended chemistry problems and attempt to invalidate those proposed by other teams.

In preparation for the tournament, I sharpened my skills in science communication and critical thinking. The tournament also taught me much about mediation and cooperation, essential interpersonal skills for a researcher. In preparation for the olympiads, I acquired practical skills and a deep understanding of chemistry and biology topics far beyond my country's secondary school curriculum. During this process, I learned from exceptional lecturers and read numerous textbooks. Veronika Ádám's Medicinal Biochemistry had the most significant influence on my interests, and I believe, unsurprisingly, this fringe area turned out to be one of my fortes. Although preparation for the competitions was demanding, natural sciences never failed to delight me with their never-ending complexity and continuous interrelatedness. This very interdisciplinarity, the desire to comprehend every segment of natural sciences and see the whole picture simultaneously, pushed me toward the path of natural sciences.

It also motivated me to look for opportunities to become familiar with research and conduct some own experiments. I joined the Material and Solution Structure Research Group (MASOST) at the University of Szeged in the summer of 2019. I had the opportunity to synthesise and analyse layered double hydroxides, the byproducts of alumina production, which can have a catalytic activity or be used as drug carriers. I became familiar with analytical and separation methods (such as SEM, TG, XRD, UV/Vis-DRS, NMR, GC-MS and HPLC) during my time there. Despite being primarily an academic relationship, it fundamentally affected my attitude towards natural sciences as a profession and a successful yet well-balanced researcher lifestyle.

In the remainder of my free time, I enjoy cycling, tennis, knitting and playing board games. As a member of the Student Council, I have been the organiser of balls and contests at my school. I have also tutored many students in maths and science, which has been an excellent opportunity to put my knowledge to work and acquire self-reflection and self improvement.

To paraphrase the famous Hungarian geneticist Endre Czeizel, 'Manipulating our

intellectual abilities with the tools of genetics is unimaginable in the upcoming decades. Our most rewarding possibility is making the best out of them by indefatigable learning.' I am keen to follow his words, and it would be my greatest pleasure and honour to do so at one of the world's most revered institutions.