



IOI 2019 Girls

Current issue of the IOI Daily features five aspiring girl-contestants. They are among 14 girls in this year's competition. Each of them shared her thoughts on girls in computer science, their dreams, goals and impressions about Baku.



**Aya Ben Saad,
Tunisia**

Upon hearing the number of girl-contestants in this year's IOI, Aya could not keep her emotions: "Wow! Only fourteen! I am very proud to be one of these selected girls. I really hope there will be more girls in informatics as it is such a great opportunity to create something and offer solutions to various problems."

In the future, Aya sees herself as a programmer creating solutions to humanitarian problems. She is particularly passionate about education and thinks that everyone should have the right to study.

Aya found similarities in Azerbaijani and Tunisian cultures. "People are very hospitable – so many smiling faces all around me. I myself enjoy smiling because I might make someone's day with my smile."



**Sofiia Melnyk,
Ukraine**

"I am aiming for the gold this year!" says Sofiia who won silver in IOI 2018 held in Japan. "There were 13 girl-contestants in Japan, so, technically, this year's number is bigger, but it is still not big enough." Sofia wants to break the stereotypes about girls in computer science and encourage them to try themselves in this field: "Girls! Work on yourselves, follow your dreams and bring other girls to programming – there should be more of us because we can do it!"

"I really like how participating in Olympiads gives me a chance to travel and visit new places. This is my 1st time in Baku and I really loved it, especially the seaside Boulevard. I arrived a day earlier and had an opportunity to explore the city a bit more – everywhere you look is very beautiful and clean."



**Laura Ioana Georgescu,
Romania**

Laura Georgescu, from Romania, has been admitted to Oxford University where she will be pursuing a bachelor's degree in Computer Science starting from next month. "Both of my parents are computer engineers. I started showing interest in this field when I was only 9 years old."

"It is my first international Olympiad and I see it as a unique experience: participants could meet new people, learn about various cultures and share their own."

Laura showed interest in learning the number of girl-contestants: "I feel privileged to be among them. I think that we would have much more diverse environment in IOI if there were more girls."

When speaking of her future goals and plans, Laura says she wants to use various opportunities for self-development and be proud of what she does in the future.

Her last words to the readers are: "My wish to everyone is this: pursue your passion and do your best to achieve your dreams!"





Malokhatkhon Mukhammadieva, Uzbekistan

Shy at first, Malokhatkhon shared why she decided to become a programmer. "I want to be useful in my home country, serve it and contribute to its development with my knowledge and skills." Malokhatkhon already has some achievements she could be proud of – the latest one includes being selected the best girl-programmer in Uzbekistan within the so-called Girls' Summit in 2018.

"It is my 1st International Olympiad and I am very excited to be here," says Malokhatkhon. "The tasks on the first day of the contest were very difficult and I was very nervous, so I do not think I will win a medal. But next year, in Singapore, I will definitely win!"

When asked how she found Baku, Malokhatkhon said she especially liked the pleasant weather. Malokhatkhon also enjoyed activities prepared within IOI 2019.

Malokhatkhon's answer to the "What would you wish to girl-contestants?" is this: "Girls! Study, continue your education at universities, set goals, achieve them and be happy!"



Fatima Omarova, Azerbaijan

Fatima Omarova is the only girl in the second team of Azerbaijan. She says she feels a little more relaxed not being in the main team. "I believe that my participation in this year's Olympiad will allow me to gather experience for future contests. I am so happy that IOI 2019 is held in Baku – this is my very first time staying away from my family. The IOI does not just give me a chance to improve my computer skills, it also teaches me independence and communication skills – I am making new friends from so many countries of the world."

Fatima says that her interest in programming was sparked by her classmate – seeing his interest in this field and his achievements inspired her to try herself. "My dream is to create something new. In this technology age everything is controlled by programming. I hope that I will create something useful for enhancing public health, the field I would like to apply my programming skills in."

"Smile and stay positive!" is Fatima's wish to all readers of the IOI Daily.

"By educating a boy, you get one educated person. By educating a girl, you get an educated family."

in original language (Azerbaijani):

"Bir oğlana təhsil verməklə təhsilli bir insan qazanırsınız, bir qıza təhsil verməklə isə təhsilli bir ailə".

Haji Zeynalabdin Taghiyev (1821-1924) was an Azerbaijani national industrial magnate and philanthropist. He was famous for his philanthropic activities, in particular, for founding the first Muslim girls' boarding school in the whole Caucasus. He thought that education was essential for women "An educated woman is an educated mother and, as such, she is able to provide her children with a broad outlook. On the other hand, an uneducated woman is an uneducated mother who cannot broaden her children's horizons."



Did You Know?

Located on the shore of the Caspian Sea, Azerbaijan is a country of unique and beautiful nature. There are nine out of eleven types of climate, varying from dry and humid subtropical to the climate of upland tundra, with extremes of temperature from - 45C in highland to + 44C in lowlands.

Azerbaijan is also known for its mud volcanoes. The country has more mud volcanoes than any other country on Earth – more than 400. When volcanoes erupt, the flames shoot up to a kilometer in the air, and when dormant they bubble and pop with noxious gases. Some of the mud volcanoes are located close to Gobustan National Park.



Gobustan National Park and Museum

Museum of Petroglyphs is another name for Gobustan, an open-air museum located 60 km away from Baku. Archaeologists found ancient sites of primitive people there who left behind numerous rock drawings – petroglyphs. This primitive art displays the culture, economy, outlooks, customs and traditions of ancient people. The drawings clearly reflect the entire evolution of humans. Since 1966 the territory of Gobustan has been regarded as national reserve.





YARAT Contemporary Art Space

The YARAT Contemporary Art Space is a hub for contemporary art and art education for Azerbaijan and the wider region. YARAT (which means “create” in Azerbaijani language) showcases temporary exhibitions by leading international artists and displays YARAT Collection.

9/8
Fri

Day 6

Schedule

NGA: National Gymnastics Arena	BCC: Baku Convention Center
AVL: Athletes' Village	HAC: Heydar Aliyev Center
BVH: Boulevard Hotel	Excursion

Time	Contestants	Leaders	Guests
07:00-09:00	Breakfast	Breakfast	
09:00-09:30	Transfer to Yanardag Reserve	Transfer to Gala State Historical Ethnographic Reserve	
09:30-10:30	Guided tour of Yanardag Reserve , Activity Time	Guided tour of Gala State Historical Ethnographic Reserve	
10:30-11:00	Transfer to Gala settlement		
11:00-11:30	Guided tour of Gala State Historical Ethnographic Reserve (2 groups x 44 teams)	Transfer to Yanardag Reserve	
11:30-12:30		Guided tour of Yanardag Reserve , Activity Time	
12:30-13:00	Transfer to Elite Events Hall	Transfer to Elite Events Hall	
13:00-14:00	Lunch (Elite Events Hall)		
14:00-15:00	Film screening (Elite Events Hall)		
15:00-16:00	Horse Show (Elite Horse Club)		
16:30-17:00	Transfer to AVL	Transfer to BVH	
17:00-18:00	Free Time	Free Time	
18:00-18:30		Transfer to AVL	
18:30-20:00	Dinner (open air) and the Cultural Night (2.5 hours)		
19:00-20:30	Cultural Night: Country Presentations		
20:30-21:00	Free Time	Transfer to BVH	
21:00-22:00		Free Time	

Photo of the Day

IOI 2019 People Explore Baku

IOI 2019 Community explores the host city on the first day of excursions. Playing giant chess in the open air at the National Boulevard surrounded by your peers must have been very exciting.

