

PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED BY A NEW COUNTRY WISHING TO TAKE PART IN THE INTERNATIONAL MATHEMATICAL OLYMPIAD

If a country would like to become a participant in the International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO), the procedure is as follows:

1. The Ministry of Education of the country, and/or the country's national Mathematical Association, should send a formal letter of application for an invitation to send an Observer to the next IMO, scheduled to take place in Argentina in July 2012. The letter of application should be addressed to the Secretary of the IMO Advisory Board, at the address below.

The application should include information on how the country plans to select and prepare its national team for the event. Copies of national Mathematical Olympiad papers, for example, should be included. Any other relevant information (such as participation in regional Mathematical Olympiads) should also be included.

2. The application is then considered by the IMO Advisory Board. If the application for Observer status is approved, the host country (in the case of IMO2012, Argentina) will issue an invitation to the country to send an Observer or Observers (who must be adults) to the IMO. The country will be responsible for paying all costs involved, including the travelling expenses of the Observer/s, and the relevant accommodation costs as set by the host country. (When a country becomes a full member of the IMO, all accommodation costs of the Team Leader, Deputy Team Leader and the team members are covered by the host country.)

3. At the IMO the Observer will be able to gain a great deal of insight into how the IMO is run, the standards expected of participating countries, and how other countries select and train their teams.

4. With the agreement of the host countries for the following two years, full membership of the IMO is then granted for the following year by the IMOAB.

Professor J H Webb
Secretary, IMO Advisory Board
Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics
University of Cape Town
7701 RONDEBOSCH
SOUTH AFRICA

Tel: +27 21 650 3193 (office)
Fax: +27 21 650 5112
Email: john.webb@uct.ac.za