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**2017 CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL MATHEMATICAL  
OLYMPIAD TEAM**

**2017 MATH TEAM CANADA'S LEADERS AND CONTESTANTS  
FACT SHEET**



## 2017 Canadian IMO Team – Contact Information

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**James Rickards - Leader**



James Rickards was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba. James represented Canada at the IMO in 2011 and 2012, earning two silver medals. In 2016 he graduated from Trinity College, Cambridge, and he is currently pursuing a PhD in algebraic number theory at McGill, under the supervision of Prof. Henri Darmon.

Participating in the International Mathematics Olympiad (IMO) program opened up many doors and opportunities for James, so he enjoys staying involved. He has been on the Canadian Open Mathematics Competition (COMC) Problem Selection Committee since 2013, and was an Observer for the Canadian IMO team in 2015.

In his spare time, James enjoys camping, fishing, hiking, gliding, board games, video games, cooking, and watching hockey.

### **Sarah Sun - Deputy Leader**



Sarah Sun was born in Toronto, Ontario. Sarah's mathematical journey first started with writing math competitions at the age of 11. A graduate of the University of Waterloo, she double majored in Mathematical Finance and Statistics, which eventually led her into the field of Data Science. Currently Sarah works for TD Bank on the Payments Innovation team, with a specialty in Data Strategy.

Over the last decade Sarah has extensive experience lecturing for various math circles and camps, coaching contest mathematics, organizing math camps, supporting girls in STEM, leading the Ontario Math Circles team at the American Regions Mathematics League, as well as being the head organizer for the Toronto Math Circles since 2012.

Outside of work and mathematics, Sarah enjoys travelling, eating, being outdoors, and pampering her two fat cats.

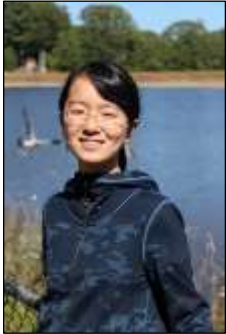
### **Matthew Stewart Brennan - Observer**



Matthew Stewart was born in Toronto, Ontario and is a first-year Ph. D. student in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at MIT, where he also completed his undergrad in Mathematics and Computer Science. Matt was on the Canadian IMO team where he earned a Gold medal in 2012 and a Bronze medal in 2011. He also was the observer for the Canadian team at the 2014 IMO in South Africa.

He really liked competing in math competitions in high school and enjoys coming back as an instructor.

### Qi Qi – Contestant 1



Qi Qi was born in Shaoxing, China and immigrated to Canada in 2009. She has been a student at Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire, USA, for the past three years. She'll be attending MIT in September.

She became interested in math competitions sometime in elementary school and has participated in various North American and international math contests since she was in Grade 7. Qi enjoys math due to the creativity that math problems demand and the sense of accomplishment upon solving difficult problems.

This is her second time being a member of Math Team Canada. She received a silver medal at the IMO last year, and she hopes to do even better this year.

Qi was one of the top competitors in the International Division of the 2017 CMO.

In her free time which is somewhat rare, Qi enjoys programming, doing puzzles, listening to music, and singing.

### Ruizhou Yang – Contestant 2



Ruizhou Yang was born in Changchun, China. He came to Canada in 2013 with his parents. He is currently in grade 12 studying in University Hill Secondary School, Vancouver, British Columbia.

Ever since he could remember, Ruizhou has been interested in mathematics and the logic it entails. While some of his friends had other interests, Ruizhou looked forward to mathematics competitions. His odyssey with math started at the age of five when he entered his first math competition, the Elementary Mathematics International

Contest in 2009. In grade 7, he started studying Olympiad mathematics and got a perfect score in the Chinese National Junior High School Mathematics Competition in the same year. After he came to Canada in 2011, he was selected as a member of Math Team Canada 2014. In grade 11, he was again selected as a member of 2016 Math Team Canada and received a bronze medal in the International Mathematical Olympiad 2016.

Ruizhou was member of the 2016 IMO Team earning a Bronze medal and was an Honour Roll member for his achievements at the 2016 Canadian Open Mathematics Challenge (COMC).

*“I am honoured to represent Canada again in the 2017 International Mathematical Olympiad,” said Ruizhou. “I would try my best in the 2017 IMO.”*

Besides pursuing his love for math, he is also a member of the University Hill Senior Badminton Team. He enjoys playing sports, travelling, and watching movies in his spare time.

### Thomas Guo – Contestant 3



Thomas was born in Toronto, Ontario, and is currently a grade 8 student at William Berczy Public School, in Markham, Ontario. Thomas first became interested in math in grade 3, after his chess teacher encouraged him to take math classes. Although Thomas has taken extra math classes, he has stopped playing chess. Excelling at his first contest, Gauss 7, Thomas was motivated to continue pursuing math. Thomas began participating in math competitions, including the Canadian Mathematical Olympiad (CMO) and the Canadian Open Mathematics Challenge (COMC) winning the top prize in both contests.

*“I am very happy to have done so well in them. I like solving challenging problems with nice logical solutions, so naturally I enjoyed these CMS competitions.”*

Thomas is very excited for the upcoming IMO, and says he feels honoured to be part of *Math Team Canada*.

In his spare time, Thomas enjoys computer programming, ice hockey and playing video games.

### **Ruiming (Max) Xiong – Contestant 4**



Max Xiong grew up in the city of Shanghai, China and moved to Canada in Grade 9. Max is currently a Grade 12 student in Calgary. Max has been crowned the Alberta math champion four times in a row in the Alberta High School Math Contest.

Max's interest in math began in elementary school. He enjoyed the satisfaction after solving math related challenges. The mathematics teacher encouraged him to learn by finding patterns, through which he gradually developed interest in the subject. Max began participating in and excelling at various math contests in Grade 4.

After performing well in the Canadian Open Mathematics Challenge (COMC) (2013, 2014), Max was invited to the IMO training camp, where he joined the IMO community. He continued to attend the camp the following year, and was invited to attend the 2016 IMO training in Banff and earned a place on the 2016 Math Team Canada.

Max earned a Gold award at the 2016 COMC and Second place at the 2017 Canadian Mathematical Olympiad (CMO).

Max continues to love math despite the difficult and time-consuming nature of the problems. He especially enjoys finding non-algebraic solutions to geometry problems.

In his spare time, Max enjoys solving Rubik's cubes and computer programming, music and singing. He plans to pursue computer science at university, where he hopes to use his strong math skills to benefit the world.



### Victor Rong – Contestant 5



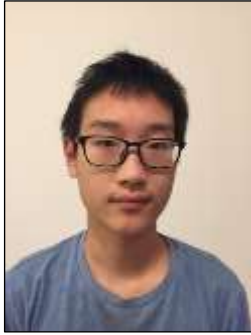
Victor was born in Toronto, Ontario and is currently a grade 10 student at Marc Garneau Collegiate Institute. Victor began doing math at a young age with the encouragement of his parents. Math became a major hobby of his, and this led him to compete in math competitions since grade 4. Victor is particularly fond of synthetic geometry. Although Victor confesses to being nervous about the upcoming IMO, he says he is happy to have made it this far.

*“Many CMO problems are feasible for those fairly new to competitive math and at the same time can be challenging to experienced students.”*

Victor competed in the 2016 Canadian Open Mathematics Challenge (COMC) and earned a Bronze medal (Best in Canada, Grade 10). Victor also earned 3<sup>rd</sup> Place (Canadian Division) in the Canadian Mathematical Olympiad (CMO).

In his spare time, Victor enjoys competitive programming and card games.

### William Zhao – Contestant 6



William Zhao was born in Toronto, Ontario and is currently a Grade 10 student at Richmond Hill High School. William became interested in math at a very young age.

As a child William enjoyed reading non-academic math books, which led to his interest in mathematics. Even now, he enjoys reading about the history and development of mathematics.

William was a member of the 2016 IMO Team earning a Gold medal. William also received honourable mention in the 2017 Canadian Mathematical Olympiad (CMO).

He is excited to be a member of Math Team Canada, to learn more about Brazil and to compete with mathematicians from other countries.

*“I am very interested in the IMO contest itself as it gives a measure to how much I’ve improved this year.”*

William hasn’t yet decided on which university he would like to attend in the coming years, but he does want to earn a Ph. D. in Mathematics before he turns 25.

In his spare time, William enjoys experimenting with graphing software, and playing extended rounds of the mathematics game ‘Make 24’, as well as computer programming, table tennis and basketball.