

The Independent University of Moscow



IUM students with Professors Paramonova and Lando

The Independent University of Moscow (IUM) is a small, elite institution in the Russian capital dedicated to the development of future research mathematicians. Founded in 1991 by distinguished mathematicians, many of whom are members of the Academy of Sciences, the IUM's philosophy of education follows the successful tradition of the Russian School in which students rediscover much of the material they learn.

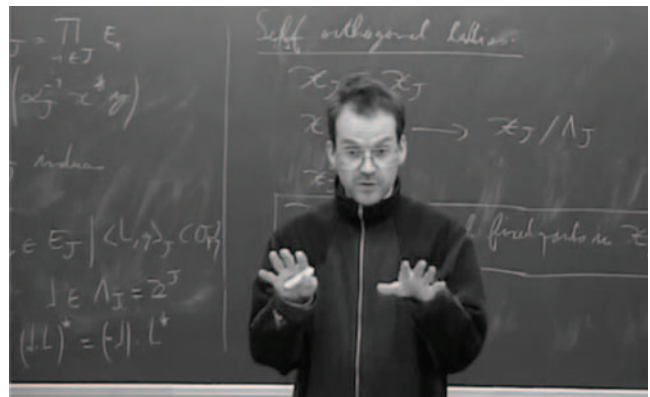
We welcome everyone who has a passion for mathematics, is committed to a hard work and open to new ideas. – IUM

V.I. Arnold is the Chairman of its Academic Council. One of the principal aims of the IUM is to counteract the effects of Russian mathematical diaspora, both through retention of talent in Russia and through enhanced interchange with other mathematical communities.

Although the Russian government provided the IUM with a magnificent building in 1996, it does not receive permanent state operating funds. In the aftermath of the Russian financial crisis of August of 1998, faculty salaries dropped by 50%, and in 2000 CMI stepped in with support sufficient to make up the difference. Since that time CMI has increased its annual grant. CMI has also supported the research work and scientific exchanges of many mathematicians associated with IUM. During the 2002–2003 academic year, IUM conducted seventy courses and research seminars. No tuition is charged for

attendance at IUM courses. Indeed, a large fraction of the students, one hundred twenty in number, received small stipends. Their education is supported by a library of 10,000 volumes.

Fields Medalist Laurent Lafforgue of IHES is a regular visitor to the IUM and a regular speaker in its Globus seminar, most active in Moscow. Following a fourth visit in November 2003, Professor Lafforgue commented “I am quite impressed by the mathematical activity there, especially by the young and extremely bright students, and the professors who teach them.” As for the future, he adds “it is extremely important for world mathematicians that the Russian school flourish.”



Laurent Lafforgue at IUM



Alexei Sossinski



Irina Paramonova

The IUM now sponsors a one-semester Math in Moscow program for foreign students and publishes the *Moscow Mathematical Journal*, distributed by the American Mathematical Society in the United States. These activities and a broadening base of financial support have stabilized IUM as a leading mathematical research institution.

Additional information about IUM, including its faculty and programs, can be obtained from its website, <http://www.ium.mccme.ru/english/>.



Sergey Lando

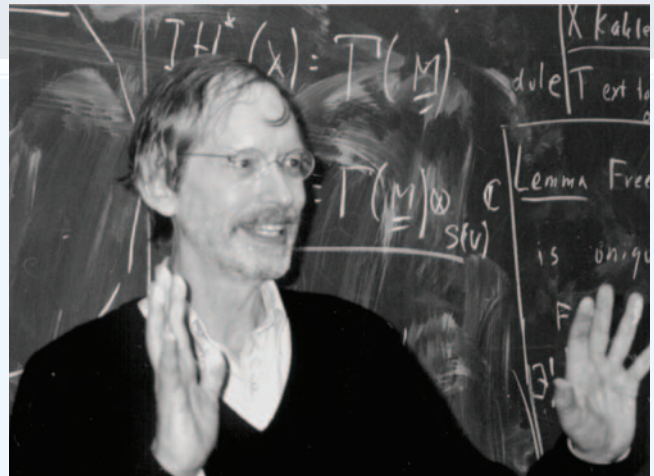


Sergei Novikov

In the Soviet Union pure mathematics was concentrated in Moscow and Leningrad, with only two places to get a good education: the State Universities of the two cities. Compared to the US, the training was very concentrated. Undergraduate training provided serious general mathematical education and research (for the last three years) under the guidance of the advisor of your choice; the next stage was graduate school (three or four years) which was pure research. It was common that good undergraduate students were producing research articles beginning with the third year of study.

Despite the fact that too many mathematicians left Russia – as with Germany in the 1930s – mathematics still lives there. The IUM deserves great credit for this.

— Sasha Beilinson



Bob MacPherson at IUM

The quality of the faculty and students at the IUM is extremely high. I taught two undergraduate classes there about ten years ago. The students comprised one of the two most stimulating groups of undergraduates I have had contact with. I would give them problems, and they would immediately start solving them, talking to their neighbors in the room. (The other undergraduate group was at the Ecole Normale Supérieure. The ENS has a program in which visiting mathematicians explain some of their work to first-year students. Of course, their first-year students are pretty advanced, by US standards.)

The operation at the Independent University depends on the Moscow tradition of teaching for the love of the subject, rather than for money. The ratio of quality and quantity of the work done to the total budget must be much higher at the Independent University than at any other institution in the world.

— Bob MacPherson

Our professors have designed and developed their own methods of teaching mathematics. We value independent thinking, open discussions, student initiative and hard work committed to the exploration of the universe of mathematics.

— IUM website