

Dear friends,

It is less than three weeks left till the 39th IChO starts. We very much look forward to seeing you in Moscow and would like to remind you of a number of important items.

1. All delegations will be met in the airports and railway stations. Please search for the 39th IChO logo on your arrival. Do not leave the airport or railway station by yourself if you are not met. In such case (which is quite improbable), please get in contact with the Organizers by calling +7 916 611 8890 or +7 916 555 7027.
2. Time zone. Moscow summer time is GMT+3.
3. Currency and cards. Russian rouble is the only currency accepted throughout Russia. Approximate exchange rates are: 1 USD is equal to 26 roubles, and 1 Euro to 35 roubles. You can change major world currencies into roubles in banks, airports, hotels and special exchange offices readily met in the city, some of the latter being open 24 hours. Main international payments cards (Visa, MasterCard, Cirrus, Maestro, American Express, Diners Club) are accepted in hotels, restaurants, pubs, and big shops and markets. Travelers checks can be exchanged into cash in bank offices only.
4. To attention of Head mentors intending to pay fees on arrival in cash: payments will be accepted in Russian roubles only. We suggest you changing currency or withdrawing roubles from a cash machine in the airport on landing.
5. Typical open hours of shops are from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Still, there are a lot of shops that are open till 10 p.m. and even longer.
6. Weather. According to long-term weather forecasts, noon temperatures in Moscow in the second part of July will be about 25 °C, which will provide for quite comfortable conditions. Still, rains are also possible, thus we suggest you having an umbrella in your luggage. Also, take a couple of sweaters or other warm things, because it might be rather fresh at night-time.
7. During the IChO, mentors and guests will stay in Holiday Inn Sokolniki, and students in the Olympian camp, which is also an option for early arrivals and late departures. Both residences offer swimming facilities (not included, to be paid by the swimmers), so please do not forget to take swimsuits.
8. Let us remind you that all students should be equipped with laboratory coats and glasses, which is a requisite of being allowed in the lab. We also ask all students to wear watches during practical exam, which will be needed to fulfill properly experimental tasks.
9. We draw your attention to lab safety regulations published in the Booklet of Preparatory problems. Lab assistants who will conduct the Practical exam are instructed to pay extra attention to this aspect of students' work.

We wish you every success in preparing for the Olympiad and safe journey to Moscow.

See you soon!

The 39th IChO Organizing Committee