

September 5, 2017

Subject: Vu Duc Tai

Dear Admissions Committee,

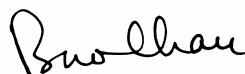
I am Ngo Bao Chau, Professor of Mathematics at the University of Chicago. It is my great pleasure to support Vu Duc Tai's application. I have worked closely with Tai over the past two years through the Talent Nurturing Organization, and I have been consistently impressed by both the breadth and depth of his mathematical ability.

Tai is an exceptionally gifted young mathematician. In the 2016 Vietnamese National Olympiad cycle, he achieved Rank 1 nationwide, and went on to win a Bronze Medal at the International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO). What makes Tai's achievements even more extraordinary is that he comes from a small city in Vietnam with limited access to elite training. Through self-directed study and determination, he developed a deep command of advanced problem-solving techniques, abstraction, and mathematical reasoning.

When I mentored Tai, I quickly recognized that his mathematical maturity extended well beyond competition problems. Earlier this year, he organized a Math Modeling program, an entirely new domain for him and for most Vietnamese high schoolers. Tai not only learned the material rapidly but also contributed intellectually as a content developer and a coach. He proposed a novel framework combining extrema, least squares, and linear programming to build a mathematically grounded business model. His ability to transition from pure mathematical theory to applied modeling demonstrates both versatility and genuine mathematical insight.

Tai also stands out for his leadership in the mathematical community. As a founding member of the Talent Nurturing Mathematics Club, for which I serve as advisor, he initiated high-level discussions between students and professors on advanced mathematical theories and their implications. He has played a key role in coordinating Pi Magazine, Vietnam's first math-focused publication for young readers, and has worked with the Vietnam Institute for Advanced Study in Mathematics to grow its reach.

Tai is one of the most mathematically promising students I have met. I give him my strongest recommendation. Should you have any question, feel free to contact me via email.



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