

Ben Singer '27

International Congress of Mathematicians Summer 2026

I used Byrne scholarship funding to attend the 2026 International Congress of Mathematicians in Philadelphia from July 22nd to 25th. It was an incredible opportunity to attend the first iteration of the world's largest and most prestigious gathering of mathematicians in eight years. I got to see some of mathematics' biggest prizes get awarded: the Fields medals, Abacus medal, Chern medal, Gauss medal, and Leelavanti prize. Beyond that, I also had the opportunity to go to over a dozen talks on groundbreaking research from many mathematicians I look up to. The highlights of these were a talk by Dennis Gaitsgory on his recent proof of the unramified geometric Langlands conjecture/its relationship to other categorical/geometric interpretations of Langlands by Fargues-Scholze and Zhu, as well as a public address by Terence Tao on the state of mathematics and artificial intelligence. The latter especially felt like a seminal moment in the history of mathematics; being present for it in person (and in the front row, no less!) felt deeply important. Being around so much high level mathematics heavily motivated me in my own work, and I've already made some big breakthroughs in the days after.

I would like to thank the Byrne scholars program for funding my travel and lodging for the ICM. Attending was one of the most enjoyable and inspiring few-day stretches I've had as of late, and I couldn't have had this experience without the support!