



To whom it may concern,

The purpose of this letter is to briefly describe the academic degree achieved by Lic. Ilán Shalom so it can be properly evaluated by your institution.

This degree has an estimated workload of 5798 (FIVE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-EIGHT) hours and a theoretical duration of 7 (SEVEN) years. The study syllabus is not structured by years but based on quarterly and correlative courses divided in three academic cycles. The first one involves 6 (SIX) courses in an introductory first year common to the degree of the "*Licenciatura*" for many sciences. The second cycle, called "*Ciclo Troncal*", requires 13 (THIRTEEN) mandatory courses, considered at the level of Bachelor or undergraduate courses in other universities, and cover topics such as basic concepts of molecular biology, botany, zoology, calculus, complex analysis, physics, and chemistry (each one comprising theoretical classes and laboratory practices). The third and last cycle, called "*Ciclo Superior*", involves the choice of a specific orientation on a biology discipline and it is composed by 10 (TEN) elective courses or 9 (NINE) elective courses and a final thesis, called SEMINARIO. These courses are organized by a study program set up by the student and endorsed by a professor. The thesis of "*Licenciatura*", which may be considered equivalent to a Master thesis, must be done under the supervision of a researcher, and requires a minimum of 6 (SIX) months of work with a commitment of 20 (TWENTY) hours per week. The final report is presented in an oral and public dissertation to the thesis supervisor, the thesis coordinator, and a committee of three professors or scientists working in the field (members of the committee can be professors or scientists from other universities or institutions).

The academic structure of this degree is mainly focused on research and the formation of highly qualified scientific researchers. Therefore, every course is divided into theoretical and laboratory classes.

Students that obtain the degree "*Licenciado*" are accepted in the PhD programs of our national universities without further requirements and can obtain national PhD fellowships. Our students have also been considered for PhD programs and successfully obtained their PhDs in many countries in the past, including EU countries, and the US.

Hoping to have made the nature and structure of this University courses clear, we kindly ask you to consider the degree of "*Licenciatura en Ciencias Biológicas*" as equivalent to a Master's degree, as well as valid and sufficient for a PhD program application or for all purposes relating thereto.

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