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To whom it may concern,

I would like to express my wish to join the Master of Logic program (MSc Logic) of the ILLC starting September 2015. Allow me to provide some information that may further support my application. I am currently a senior Computer Science and Engineering student at the German University in Cairo. My interest in computer science began with learning C at the age of twelve, followed by other languages such as C++, visual basic. I mainly practiced on small projects for my own use.

Following high school, I decided to follow a career in computer science. I was offered a partial scholarship to join the Bachelor Program in Computer Science and Engineering of the German University in Cairo.I am currently in my senior year and expected to graduate next semester with highest honors. I am currently ranked the second top student of my class with GPA: 0.89 . My chosen study track was mainly focused on Logic, Theory of Computation and Artificial Intelligence. I covered courses of First Order Logic, Knowledge Representation and Reasoning, Machine Learning, Analysis and Design of Algorithms and Declarative and Functional programming. During my study, I attended several extra-curricular courses and workshops abroad such as the CHR workshop 2013 in Berlin. These trips were funded by my university as a reward of academic excellence. Finally, I did my Bachelor Project during my stay in Augsburg university as an exchange student, under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Elizabeth Andre. My Thesis was titled the Emotion Classification: Sentimental Analysis over EEG. My stay there was also funded by my university.

My main interest in Logic is due to its contribution to the field of Artificial Intelligence. I aspire to join a career in Artificial Intelligence research. I believe it is the key to understanding the most computationally capable construct in existence, the human brain. For that I have become involved with AI research community, as well as taken several internships relating to the field including an internship with Intel Egypt Corporation. Currently, I am part of an effort to start an Artificial Intelligence research group in the German University in Cairo, in which I am mainly responsible of Machine Learning and Data Mining research.

In order to further pursue my goal, I decided to take a Master's program in Logic. Many breakthroughs in AI are attributed to new developments in logical theory. New generation expert systems rely heavily on logic for reasoning and representing their often very large and complex Knowledge bases. Problems such as planning, natural language processing as well as the abstract concepts of rationality and common sense, all require a strong logical framework to be able to understand and solve.

After reviewing the top Master's programs in Logic offered around the world, I find that the ILLC program is the most suited or me. It is known as one of the oldest, most prestigious programs in this discipline. It

was recommended by several of my professors as the top Logic program currently offered, and the recent attention it has received from accreditation committees show the excellent standards of learning it holds. Furthermore, having gone over some of the MoL theses, its clear that the program is research directed encouraging true contributions to the field. I also look forward to being part of the University of Amsterdam, one of the largest and most distinct research University in Europe. Regarding the content of the program, I am most interested in the Logic and Computation track as well as courses such as Game Theory, Proof Theory and Cognitive Modelling.

In conclusion, I would like to point out that I am a hard working student, eager to learn and will be happy to share my passion towards scientific research should I be given the opportunity to join this program. I believe that I will truly benefit from such an opportunity and in return I would be able to be of benefit to the scientific and research community.

Thank you for your consideration,

Samy Shihata