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To whom it may concern,

I would like to express my wish to join the European Master's Program in Computational Logic starting 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. I became interested in computer programming started early on. To me, programming was the ability to materialize an idea using a few lines of code. I found it to be the ideal form of expression. I was also fascinated by the regular technological advances made daily in terms of both software and hardware. I began 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 the Theory of Computation and Artificial Intelligence. I covered courses of Machine Learning, Knowledge Representation and Reasoning, First Order Logic, Analysis and Design of Algorithms and Declarative and Functional programming. I also included some general courses such as Software Engineering and Computer Graphics. 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.

While I was involved in several internships relating to web development, including a website for the university itself, my main interest have always been Artificial Intelligence. I view research in AI as the gateway towards the most advanced computation device in existence, the human brain. For that I have tried to become part of the AI research community. I have taken several internships relating to the field such as Machine Learning text classification with Intel Egypt. 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 pursue a career in AI research, I decided to take a Master's program in Computational 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 them.

After reviewing the top universities that offer a Master's Program in Computational Logic, I find that the European program is the most suited one for my goals. First, having gone over the list of publications created during the study of EMCL, its clear to me that the program is research directed encouraging true contributions to the field. Also the program's connection with some of the most renowned research universities guarantees exceptional standards of education. Having been in Germany before, for some study courses, I am familiar with the European attitude towards learning which makes it both a more challenging and rewarding experience. Regarding the content of the program, I am particularly interested in the Constraint Programming module, having had previous experience with CHR. I am also eager to get more in depth Knowledge into both knowledge representation and Inference.

In conclusion, I would like to point out that I am a hard working student, eager to learn and will be happy to prove my worth 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