

# UNDERGRADUATE TRAINING IN RESEARCH IN ARGENTINA

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As an experiment of training in research, we are working with students, 18 to 19 years old when they start in the first course of chemistry (Faculty of Sciences). After two semesters of general and inorganic chemistry, two in analytical chemistry and three of organic chemistry, they complete the basic chemical knowledge with biological chemistry and two semesters of physical chemistry. With physics and mathematics, this is sixteen semesters altogether. Four more semesters will complete the degree of Licenciado, approximately Master's level.

In 1960, we invited some of the best who had passed the analytical chemistry semester, to a seminar for one semester on the subject which was developed theoretically and experimentally by the student. Some of them were appointed assistants and eventually worked on their thesis with the staff.

But the seminar in one semester was very short for the requirements of training and of the students. So our scheme now allows students to go on doing research in one of the organized groups as an assistant. In this position he obtains training from the level of laboratory techniques to instrumental work and is stimulated to make his own contribution to chemical ideas about the subject.

At the moment, the results are quite satisfactory but the group so far has been small. Now the number of students is expanding in the seminar and some of them are becoming assistants in research very early in their careers with good intellectual and experimental training. We have a saying: 'Primary school for learning, secondary school for learning to study, university for learning to teach', and this last one applies to teaching oneself.