Open Higher Education for Refugees
The situation
Students’ challenges

*Higher Education* is a fundamental factor for self-empowerment and integration but refugees face multiple obstacles to access higher education.

**UNHCR** identified four barriers in their Education Strategy 2012-2016:

- Costs
- Legal
- College capacity
- Language
Our concept

We build partnerships with the best online course providers and universities.

Together with our partners we provide the latest educational technologies.

We offer a scalable educational model to solve one of the biggest challenges the world is facing.
Our business model

Donations
A first crowdfunding in Germany and a second international rollout in English to attract international fonds

Government & foundations
Government support and foundations that contribute with a stable (annual) revenue income

Reversed generation model
Alumni can choose to support future students or social projects with a small percentage (5%) of their income over the next decade.
Our solution for integrating refugees in higher education
Our academic model

Students can take up to 120 ECTS credits worth of courses via our online course partners before transitioning into a regular university and graduating after the third year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Year 4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to 2 years online study phase at Kiron</td>
<td>Optional orientation phase &amp; specific courses for chosen study track</td>
<td>1 - 2 years of on-campus study programme</td>
<td>Regular enrolment for the remaining semesters leading up to an accredited Bachelor degree at the partner university</td>
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Registration at Kiron Open Higher Education:
- motivation test, self-assessment, English placement test,
- completion of 2 test-MOOCs within 8 weeks

Orientation phase/ study preparation

Study Tracks at Kiron:
- Business
- Computer Science
- Engineering
- Social Sciences
Our services

- Buddy Program
- Mentoring
- Psychosocial Support
- Language School
- Career Service
- Study Hubs
- Direct Academics
- Job Platform
Current state and who we are
### Our organization

#### Team

- Markus Kreßler
- Vincent Zimmer

Markus and Vincent founded Kiron in 2015 and are now leading a team of more than **250 highly committed volunteers** worldwide.

The core team consists of **30 full-time employees**, mainly based in Germany and Turkey.

#### Board

Kiron can rely on the expertise of a **competence pool** of 50 professors and entrepreneurs.

These are organized in an Advisory, Investor- and Evaluation Board.

#### Partners

Kiron maintains **strong partnerships** with international corporations, foundations, NGOs and associations.

We have established a network of **16 partner universities** and are in further discussions with another 120 institutions worldwide.
In October 2015, 1,250 students started their studies with Kiron. 1000 more are starting next month. About half of them are located in Germany.

Currently we offer Business, Engineering, Computer Science and Social Science.
Our network

Partner Universities* (N=18)
*Agreements signed
Students main countries of origin,
(80% of students come from Syria)
Kiron offices & regional groups
Partner universities
Challenge: solved

Kiron’s answer to overcome these obstacles:

- Established agreements with leading MOOC providers and landlord owners
- Courses and campus do not generate costs
- No direct tuition fees but reversed generation model

- Students can start studying without prior legal documents
- Documents after the second year to proof refugee status

- Blended learning: Up to two years online and the remaining time at one of our partner universities

- Online content in English, German and Arabic
- Specialized online tutoring to learn the necessary languages
- Partnerships with existing institutions to allow access
Empowering refugees to live a self-determined life by transforming them to students
kiron

Higher Education for Refugees.

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**Kiron Services**

**Student Services**

- **Mentoring Program**
  
  Our mentors help students prepare for their **future career**, serve as role models, and give **insights** into organizations. We cooperate with **different organizations**, which provide a team of dedicated, trained and multilingual mentors.

- **Buddy Program**
  
  We recruit **volunteer students** from local universities who act as local contacts for Kiron students, offering support and advice and introducing Kiron students to the **student life** in their city.

- **Counselling**
  
  Exposure to violence, disaster, and separation, in conjunction with lack of access to services, can all have immediate and long-term consequences for the **psychosocial well-being** of refugees. Therefore our students can request support from our **trained psychologists and counsellors**.
## Kiron Services

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<th>Internships</th>
<th>Study Hubs</th>
<th>Language School</th>
<th>Direct Academics</th>
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**Practical experience** is essential for a smooth and successful *transfer* to the *job market*. It will help students match their field of studies with their talents. Kiron builds the link to future employers through its *corporate network* and maintains a *job platform* where students can get in touch with potential employers.

**Study Hubs** facilitate online learning by providing internet and computer access, and strengthen the *student community* by allowing students to meet and exchange. The spaces are also used for language lessons, tutoring and peer-to-peer coaching.

Parallel to the faculty-specific curriculum, students can take *language courses*. Learning the language is essential. It will also be required when enrolling in a partner university. We offer *multiple course formats* on different levels with either blended- or self-learning concepts.

Qualified academics provide *real-time interactive online tutorials* in their field of expertise for students via our *education platform* on a voluntary basis. Students will get personal feedback and help with skills such as academic writing, and benefit from the personal contact.
Cooperation process

1. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with a university partner
2. Course matching: Coordination with the academic departments responsible for study courses
3. Learning Agreements (LA) on the recognition of MOOCs/modules
4. Integration of the degrees awarded by partner universities into the Kiron platform
5. Application of students at the partner universities according to university requirements
6. Enrolments of the students and acknowledgement of academic transcripts
Example of curriculum matching for TH Wildau, BS in Telematik
Course of study from a student’s perspective
Kiron Plan

- Onboarding
- Overview of the plan of study
- Direct access to Student Services
- Access to Direct Academics and language courses
- Selection via the Kiron platform

Language School

Overview  English  German

English Courses
When you begin at Kiron it is important to prioritise your English language studies first of all, because most of the course material is in English. You should also bear in mind that English is a global language which can speed up the process of integration, employment and access to higher education in almost any country. We advise you to take every opportunity to improve your English language skills, for example by using the online language courses and resources listed below, and by watching English news and films. Below you will find a list of useful links.

LinguaTV (online)
LinguaTV is an online platform with professionally produced training videos featuring native speakers. You can use LinguaTV on your laptop or by downloading a free LinguaTV App (iTunes Store) for your Smartphone. You will find an online placement test to find out your English level. The test takes about 5-10 minutes and headphones are all you’ll need. At the end of the test, you will get an evaluation and a personal recommendation for the appropriate course level to begin with. LinguaTV provides one free online-based account to a limited number of Kiron students to improve their English skills at any level.

How do I register?
1. The registration only works with your Kiron Email address, ending with @platforms.kiron-ohe.com. You can find your email address in your profile.
2. Please use the following link: www.linguatv.com/af/kiron. Once you have entered the website (see language setting, top right) please follow the instructions carefully.
Kiron Interact

- Interaction with fellow students and tutors
- Exchange and discussion of study content
- Creation of study groups and discussions in the forum
Kiron University: Open only for "Die Pionier-Uni"

"Kiron University (...) has turned its utopian vision into reality"

311 Reports in 90 days

11 countries

"Erste deutsche Flüchtlings-Uni startet mit Riesenandrang ins Semester"
Status Quo in Summary

- 18 Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) signed
- Learning Agreement with Hochschule Heilbronn

- In October 2015 Kiron enrolled **1,250 students**

- Successful **pilot of Klassenzimmer 2.0**, live online language instruction, funded by Bertelsmann Foundation
  - 70 students enrolled, completion rate of 78% (offline completion rate 80%)

- 3 study hubs opened in Berlin, Paris and Lüneberg
- 70 buddies matched through our Buddy Program